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Local authority workers end 2-day strike

By SHI DAVID

Some 100,000 local council workers are expected to be back at work this morning, ending a two-day strike, after reaching an agreement in principle with the Treasury last night over a wage dispute.

Leon Morozovsky, secretary of the clerks' union, who had negotiated on behalf of the workers, said that an agreement had been reached regarding the demands for a one-time 30 percent bonus, although talks were still continuing on details before a formal accord would be signed.

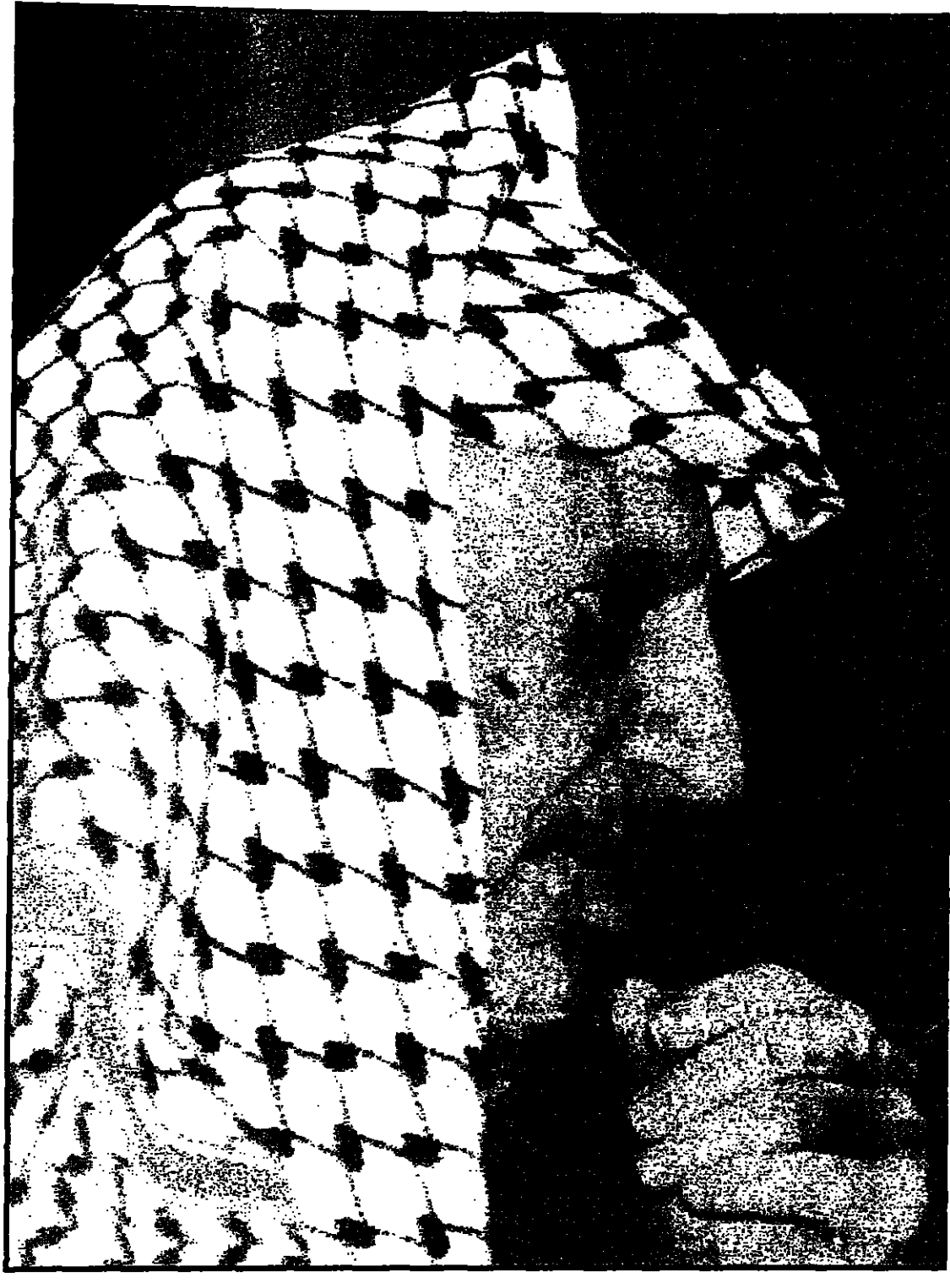
"We came to the conclusion that there is no point in striking another day and we are happy to say we are returning to work," Morozovsky said, standing alongside Treasury wage director Yossi Kucik after hours of negotiations.

"Today we made a lot of progress," Kucik said, adding that talks would continue with hopes of signing an agreement on wages and pensions within a few days.

The agreement was facilitated by a compromise proposal put forth by Knesset Interior Committee chairman Micha Goldman, who suggested extending the time frame for resolving the dispute to 15 months, instead of a year, Channel 1 reported.

Sanitation workers were expected to begin cleaning the trash-filled streets last night, officials said moments after agreement was reported at about 11:30 p.m.

The walkout began at midnight Monday, over demands for a one-time 30 percent bonus in September salaries.



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, seen after his speech during a meeting of Arab foreign ministers at Arab League headquarters in Cairo yesterday.

Clinton wants 3-way summit

By DANNA HARMAN and news agencies

US President Bill Clinton is seeking to hold a summit with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in New York next week - if the two sides are able to bridge most of the gaps between them by then, the Associated Press reported yesterday.

Netanyahu's spokesman Aviv Bushinsky said that as far as he knows there is "no intention to hold a three-way meeting." AP, however, citing anonymous sources, said that while Arafat is still undecided, Netanyahu is agreeable.

Arafat, in Cairo yesterday for the opening of the Arab League meetings, called upon Arab and Moslem leaders to support his planned declaration of independence on May 4, 1999. He alleged that the IDF is making plans for an

attack if he declares statehood. The government, in response, said the consequences of such a unilateral declaration would be dire.

"The Israeli army has begun... to get ready against this [declaration]... and has already begun training to storm the Palestinian territories," Arafat said at the meeting.

Cabinet secretary Dan Naveh, speaking in Jerusalem to a group of lawyers, said that "whoever thinks Israel will sit with arms crossed as they take one-sided steps is sorely mistaken."

He would not elaborate on what the government would do in such a scenario, but stressed that the Palestinians would be fully responsible for any and all consequences of such an action.

Netanyahu, in an interview with Channel 1, reiterated this line, saying that declaring statehood would be a blatant snub to the peace agreements and would lead

to their cancellation. Netanyahu advised Arafat to concentrate on reaching the final status negotiations.

Members of the Arab League voiced support for Arafat's position and spoke out against what they called Israel's "racist and elitist" attitudes towards the Palestinians.

"If the current Israeli government continues to freeze the peace process until it reaches a bursting point, the doors will be open to the other, more dangerous, options," Secretary-General Esamat Meguid said in a report presented to the league.

Meanwhile, a senior PA official suggested there is some movement toward agreement. He said that although there is no official agreement yet, the PA has in effect accepted the principle of a nature reserve on 3 percent of land in the Judean Desert.

See SUMMIT, Page 6

PA paper calls Ross 'Shylock'

By DANNA HARMAN

Hafez Barghouti, the editor of the official Palestinian Authority newspaper *Al-Hayat al-Jadida*, said he had not approved the contents of the Fatah newsletter printed yesterday in his paper, which called US Middle East envoy Dennis Ross a "Shylock."

The article states that the "biased mediator" is "part of the oppressive racist Zionist apparatus," influenced by the "Likudnik Zionist lobby in the American administration."

"Dennis Ross amuses himself on his visits like a Shylock, deriving pleasure from imagining how he will slice three percent from the body of the victim," the article said. It was referring to the current redeployment proposal which suggests that three of the 13% of the land to be handed back to the Palestinians be set aside as a nature reserve.

The US decided not to make an official response, but a spokesman indicated the issue would be brought up at yesterday's late-night meeting between Ross and Palestinian Authority Chairman

Yasser Arafat. The Prime Minister's Office denounced the article, calling the sentiments expressed "regrettable" and reiterating its position that Ross is a fair and honest broker.

Barghouti said his paper prints the biweekly internal Fatah newsletter verbatim, but that the "unfortunate phrasing" in this week's letter "escaped the editors' eyes."

Members of the Fatah central committee, who write and distribute the newsletter, refused to comment.

IDF soldier loses foot in Lebanon; UNIFIL trooper loses finger

By DAVID RUDGE and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

An IDF soldier lost a foot after stepping on a mine while his squad was on a mission in the eastern sector of the security zone early yesterday morning.

Meanwhile, OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi yesterday expressed regret over an incident in which a Norwegian UNIFIL soldier lost a finger to a shell fired by an IDF tank.

Ashkenazi made it clear the IDF has no intention of harming UNIFIL soldiers.

The IDF soldier was evacuated by helicopter to Haifa's Rambam Hospital where surgeons had to

amputate his foot. The soldier, from an elite unit of the Givati Brigade, was reported to be in a stable condition after surgery.

By last night no organization had claimed responsibility for the attack, although security sources said there is no doubt terrorists had planted the mine.

Initial inquiries revealed that the soldiers had acted in accordance with regulations and the fact that they had kept a distance between one another had prevented additional casualties.

Ashkenazi's remarks came after UNIFIL lodged a protest with the IDF over the incident, which occurred early yesterday morning in the eastern sector of the security zone.

UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel said a seven-member Norwegian unit was on a routine foot patrol in the area when they came under IDF tank fire. He said three rounds were fired and one of the soldiers was hit in the left hand by shrapnel.

Goksel noted that a similar incident had occurred in December 1993, when an IDF tank fired at a Norwegian patrol in the same area, killing one soldier and wounding another.

The IDF spokesman said that an IDF tank crew had been on operational duties in the eastern sector of the zone when it spotted suspicious movement and opened fire.

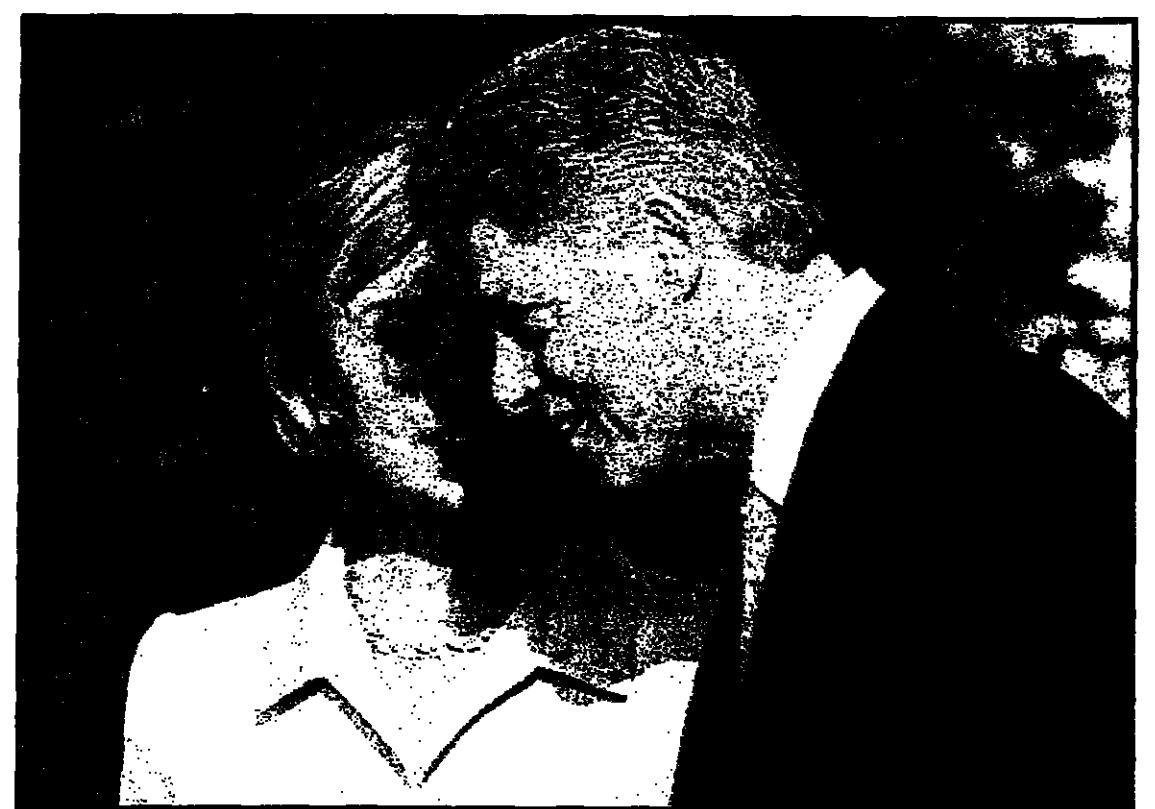
Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen.

Shaul Mofaz called the shooting of the UNIFIL soldier a "bad incident," and that he had instructed Ashkenazi to "thoroughly investigate what happened and why."

Regarding a claim by Hizbullah's leader yesterday that the naval commandos killed in Ansariya last September were cut down in a well-executed ambush, Mofaz said he preferred not to get involved in a propaganda war with Hizbullah.

"I can't say if it is true or partially true or an attempt to harm the morale of the IDF soldiers. I don't want to comment on this," Mofaz said.

"I can only say that there was an inquiry in the IDF and I have no reason to doubt its results," Mofaz said.



US President Bill Clinton listens to his wife, Hillary, during yesterday's White House arrival ceremonies for Czech Republic President Vaclav Havel.

Report: Mossad told to end 'high living'

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - Mossad agents have been ordered to exchange their high-living habits for an austere professionalism that will dispel the "fat and clumsy" image the agency has acquired following a recent spate of high-profile blunders.

According to the London-based newsletter *Foreign Report*, Mossad head Efraim Halevy, who was appointed less than three months ago in the wake of the botched attempt to assassinate Hamas official Khaled Mashaal in Amman, is determined to revive the Mossad's old

values of being "slim, clever, imaginative."

Soon after taking over, the newsletter reported, Halevy summoned a meeting of Mossad agents to tell them that the years of high living and attempts to match the scope of the CIA were over. Instead of globe-trotting, he said, Mossad agents would concentrate on its core tasks of penetrating the Arab world, Iran, and Pakistan.

The newsletter, to be published today, said the Mossad began to deteriorate after the 1982 appointment of Nahum Admoni, who brought a new style to the agency, characterized by "five-star hotels, expensive suits - and less professionalism."

The net result was that the staff doubled and the information shrank.

Betar activists plan to camp at Har Homa

By AMY KLEIN

Two dozen 18-year-olds gathered late last night at the Betar youth movement center in Jerusalem's Noyot neighborhood for what seemed like a regular activity of the Zionist youth movement.

They had a long night ahead of them until they found out what they were about to do: under the cover of darkness, they were to set up camp at Har Homa.

If all went according to plan - and police did not stop them - they intended to set up a caravan and tents at Har Homa early this morning, to remind the government to begin building there.

The Housing Ministry has yet to issue tenders to build on the 1,850-dunam (462.5 acre) plot, despite Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's promise last January to issue the tenders by March. Netanyahu is waiting for the "appro-

priate time," said David Bar-Ilan, his communications adviser, earlier in the week.

"We want to send a Happy New Year message to the people of Israel, and say that construction on Har Homa should begin this year," said Danny Danon, leader of the group and secretary-general of Betar World Leadership.

Palestinians oppose the plan for a new neighborhood at Har Homa, which is on the former Jordanian side of the pre-1967 armistice line that divided Jerusalem, viewing it as impinging on Arab areas. The neighborhood would be situated next to Beit Sahur, a town that is under Palestinian Authority control.

Danon is also active in "Yerushalayim Shelanu" (Jerusalem Is Ours), a secular right-wing group that accompanied Ateret Kohanim students last year when they occupied a house owned by millionaire Irving Moscovitz in Ras al-Amud.

Clinton: I can still lead the country

By RON FOURNIER

WASHINGTON (AP) - US President Bill Clinton insisted yesterday that his ability to lead America and the world has not been diminished by the Monica Lewinsky investigation and threats to his presidency.

"I have never stopped leading this country in foreign affairs in this entire year and I never will," Clinton said in a joint news conference with the president of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Havel.

"The issues are too important and they affect the way Americans live at home."

Ticking off his foreign policy involvement, Clinton said he has acted to crack down on terrorism and stabilized the world's trouble spots, including Northern Ireland and the Middle East.

Asked if he has the moral author-

ity to lead the nation, Clinton said firmly, "That is something you have to demonstrate every day."

Clinton urged the public and Congress to not "get mired in all the details" of his relationship with Lewinsky and to move beyond the controversy jeopardizing his presidency.

Asked point-blank if he would resign, Clinton gave no direct answer, but said Americans "want to put it behind them and they want to go on - and they want me to go on." Friends and aides have said he won't resign.

The news conference at the State Department was dominated by questions about the Lewinsky affair.

"I think that the right thing for our country and the right thing for all people concerned is not to get mired in all the details here, but for me to focus on what I did, to acknowledge it, to atone for it, and

then to work on my family, where I still have a lot of work to do - difficult work - and to lead this country," he said.

He said his legal defenses "should not obscure" the fact that he is sorry for his acts.

Clinton remained calm throughout the news conference but seemed uncomfortable and a bit impatient with some of the reporters' questions.

He was asked about House Republican plans to release the videotape of his August 17 grand jury testimony, a move White House advisers fear will embarrass Clinton.

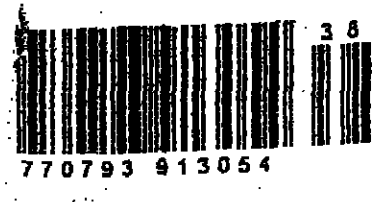
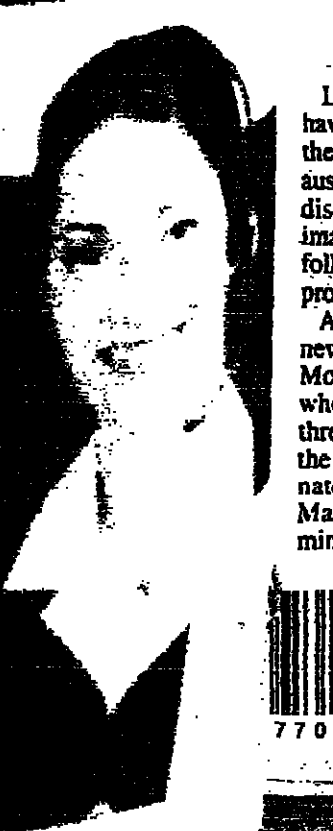
"... knew the rules were against it, but I thought it would happen," Clinton said.

Havel, praising Clinton for helping to "build a new Europe," would not speculate about the impact of a Clinton resignation.



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ICIUS



See MOSSAD, Page 6

NEWS

in brief

Air force unveils its Internet site

The IAF launched its Internet site yesterday (www.iaf.org.il), claiming that its more than 2,500 pages of information makes it the largest site based in Israel.

"You can get information which has never before been published," Col. Avi Hudin, head of the project, said at a press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday. "Through the Internet we want to bring the air force closer to the youth and the population."

Maybe, but you'll need a Hebrew font on your web browser, since the site is in Hebrew only.

Arich O'Sullivan

Basque separatists announce a ceasefire

The Basque separatist guerrilla group ETA yesterday announced an "indefinite and total" truce to take effect today.

ETA issued a communique in which it said it would cease all violent actions. The guerrillas have killed more than 800 people in their 30-year struggle for an independent state. The announcement, published in the Basque separatist newspaper *Euzkadi Informazioa*, followed weeks of speculation that the rebel group was close to declaring a truce that would end the decades of bloodshed in Spain's Basque country.

Reuters

US seeks to deport man with alleged Nazi past

The US government has begun proceedings to deport a Chicago man who allegedly guarded 3,700 Jewish prisoners shot to death by Nazi troops in 1941 in Lithuania. The complaint against Vincas Valkavickas, a 78-year-old retired factory worker, was filed Monday in US Immigration Court in Chicago, according to a US Justice Department statement.

The complaint alleges that Valkavickas, a Lithuanian police officer from 1941 to 1944, assisted the occupying Nazi forces by guarding Jewish men, women and children at a former military installation near Sviencionys, Lithuania. The complaint says Valkavickas guarded the prisoners from September 27, 1941, until their deaths by gunfire a few days later.

AP

Ailing US man admits Nazi past, no deportation

An elderly Connecticut man admitted he was a guard at Nazi concentration camps but will not be deported because of his failing health, Justice Department prosecutors said yesterday.

A federal judge stripped Walter Berezowsky, 74, of his US citizenship on Tuesday, after the retired, Ukrainian-born machinist acknowledged his World War II past and admitted he lied about it when he entered the United States in 1949.

"Defendant's medical condition has been deteriorating and could seriously hamper the progress of this litigation," prosecutors wrote in a settlement agreement filed in US District Court in New Haven, Connecticut.

AP

We announce with sorrow, the death of our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

ELLA S. FRANKEL

The funeral will take place tomorrow morning, Friday, September 18, in the Sanhedria Cemetery, Jerusalem.

For the time of the funeral, please phone 02-679 1390, 04-996 0570.

Haffy and Leah Frankel
Jonathan and Edith Frankel
Ruti and Howard Cohen
Orli and Udi Cohavi
Leora and Yossi Shlosberg
Rachel Frankel
Great-grandchildren: Adi, Ofri, Hadas,
Avigail, Ariel, Noam and Michael

With deep sorrow and great grief we announce the passing of our dear mother, sister, grandmother and aunt

SONIA JACOBSON

daughter of Samuel and Rebecca 77

The funeral will take place today, Thursday, September 17, 1998 (26 Elul 5758) at 2:00 p.m. at the Yarkon Cemetery (Hotzeh Shomron). We will meet at the cemetery entrance.

Shiva at son's house: Jeffrey Jacobson, Rehov Balfour 42, Petah Tikva

Mourners:

Son: Jeffrey Jacobson and family, Petah Tikva
Son: David Jacobson and family, Dublin, Ireland
Sister: Rina Rubin and family, Bnei Brak

With deep sorrow we have learned of the passing of

VICTOR STARK

Honorary Consul of Yugoslavia in Israel

We express our deepest condolences to the Family

Embassy of Yugoslavia, Tel Aviv
Ambassador Mirko Stefanovic

Adv. Abe Neeman
Honorary Consul of Yugoslavia in Israel

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved

VICTOR STARK

Honorary Consul of Yugoslavia
Distinguished Citizen of Haifa

The funeral will take place today, September 17, 1998, at 12 noon at the Hof Hacarmel Cemetery in Haifa. Meeting at the main gate.

Mourned by:

His daughter and son-in-law: Thea and Andre Charbit
Grandchildren: Daniel and Thalia and her husband
Jean Louis Sebag
Great-grandchildren: Theo and Emmy
and the entire staff of the Adria Trade
and Shipping Agency Ltd.

NEWS

Thursday, September 17, 1998 The Jerusalem Post

Mordechai warns against attacks

By ANIEN O'SULLIVAN

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday issued another warning to Hamas terrorists not to go through with their threats to carry out attacks.

"They will find a tough response if they dare attack our people," Mordechai said.

His comments came as the IDF was placed on alert for the holiday season for fear of possible terror attacks. Channel 1 reported yesterday that there were also warnings of plans by Hamas or other terror groups to try and kidnap soldiers.

Israel will continue to target terrorists and guerrilla leaders, Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Shaul

Mofaz said yesterday, maintaining that the recent assassinations in Lebanon and the West Bank have severely shaken up their target groups.

Speaking at a New Year's meeting with military reporters in Tel Aviv, Mofaz said last Thursday's killing of master Hamas bombers Adel and Imad Awadallah by Israeli commandos was a "very hard blow to Hamas."

Mofaz said that Israel has to fight terror "all the time, in every place and in every way possible."

He said that pinpoint air strikes, like the one last August 25 when a rocket-firing IAF Apache gunship killed the Amal regional commander Hossan al-Amin, also would

continue whenever they are achievable.

"That action was very, very valuable," Mofaz said. "We know it shook them up. Because of the strike Amal and Hizbullah commanders are living in a constant state of threat and are being very careful now."

In the meantime, IDF and security forces have deployed heavily to deter attacks by Islamic fundamentalists during the coming weeks. Mofaz said the army has "significantly increased" the number of troops in the territories on the eve of the Jewish New Year and High Holy days.

Mofaz echoed other senior IDF officers and security officials yes-

terday when he said there were no concrete warnings of a specific attack being planned by Islamic terrorists.

But he said that the closure and added security precautions were taken due to a convergence of risks stemming from: threats over the past months by Hamas to carry out attacks; a desire to avenge the killing of the Awadallah brothers; a desire to foil the mission of US special envoy Dennis Ross; and to spoil the Jewish holidays.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu denied last night in an interview with Channel 1 that the Palestinian Authority had assisted in locating the Awadallahs.

"There was no cooperation," in

the killings, he said. "It was a blue and white operation only. Our security apparatus deserves the Israel prize."

Mofaz said that the PA was not seriously attempting to break up the Hamas terrorist infrastructure. He said that Hamas has been steadily building its terrorist infrastructure in the West Bank for the past year and a half.

He said it was easier for them to carry out attacks from the West Bank than from the Gaza Strip, which is relatively sealed off by a heavily guarded perimeter fence.

He also revealed that the General Security Services had foiled a number of attacks, but he would not elaborate.

'Foreign Report': UNRWA corrupt

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - UNRWA is riddled with corruption and attempts to investigate abuses are being systematically thwarted, according to the edition of the newsletter *Foreign Report* that is to be published in London today.

Quoting "a well-placed Middle Eastern source," the newsletter says UNRWA commissioner Peter Hansen is "an honest and sincere bureaucrat who has no idea what is going on below him." The source added that while many UNRWA officials are also "honest, sober, and trustworthy, some are not" and there are "cases of incompetence, cronyism, favoritism and misuse of funds."

"Recently," the article continued, "a trouble-shooter of the Field Administration and Logistics Division of the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations was lured to UNRWA's head office in Gaza with a promise of promotion. 'Steinar Bjorsson, who had been sent to clean up messy UN missions before, was given a free hand to revamp UNRWA's administration.'"

However, Bjorsson lasted "just two weeks in Gaza before 'throwing in the towel for the first time in his long UN career and returning to New York.'"

The newsletter said "associates quote him as saying UNRWA's administration was impossible to penetrate."



Supreme Court Deputy President Shlomo Levine (left) chats with President Ezer Weizman during yesterday's swearing-in of 19 new judges. (Kevin Unger)

Weizman: We must have peace

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

President Ezer Weizman, speaking at a swearing-in ceremony for new judges, yesterday expressed concern over the future of the nation unless it takes care "to live in peace" with its neighbors.

During the jubilee year, he said, "it is very important to talk about what has happened over the past 50 years. But I am most concerned about what will happen here in the next five years."

"We are marking the 20th anniversary of the Camp David Accords, without which there would not have been [the Oslo agreement]. There were high hopes at that time." The late prime minister Menachem Begin "had very definitive political views, but he

was able to change these when he met the enemy at Camp David," Weizman said. The accords had many painful elements and also "speaks of 'the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.'"

"We have to be extremely careful to live in peace so that we will not return to... violence and clashes," he cautioned. "We want to hand a land of peace to our grandchildren."

Deputy Supreme Court President Shlomo Levine, who stepped in for President Aharon Barak, blasted the pressure brought upon judges by various groups in society.

"You will have to face a complicated system of pressures," he told the 19 new judges. "So-called public opinion finds expression in declarations from various circles about what has to be decided in general and... in

specific cases." Judges, he said, must rule according to the law and the principles of justice "even if the results are not popular and even if the verdict is not to the liking of one sector or another."

There are various pressure groups, he said. Sometimes the accused hires PR firms to create a favorable climate. "To my regret... there is a basis to the belief that there are lawyers who help such a campaign."

Levine said that certain institutions and organizations are also to blame for this phenomenon, as are representatives of the media who "often pronounce a verdict in a hasty headline."

"The rise to power of such pressure groups is a blueprint for... undermining democracy," he said.

Report: Syria planning redeployment in Lebanon

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - Syria is preparing a major troop redeployment in Beirut by the end of the year to appease its Lebanese critics and deepen cooperation with Lebanon over future talks with Israel, according to the Arabic-language weekly *Al-Watan al-Arabi*.

The redeployment will involve the withdrawal of some 7,000 Syrian troops and 2,000 intelligence officers from their bases in Beirut and Mount Lebanon within the next 10 weeks.

The paper quotes "well-placed Arab diplomats" as saying a decision has already been made in Damascus to redeploy these forces in northern and eastern Lebanon.

The redeployment will be conducted in stages and will be complete before the new Lebanese

president takes office in late November or by the end of the year at the latest.

This approach, according to the paper, is designed to accommodate Lebanese Christians and other critics of Syria's domination of Lebanon.

A key objective would be to consolidate the linkage between the Syrian and Lebanese negotiating tracks.

Damascus, says the paper, believes it must adopt a new and more transparent policy in Lebanon in order to address the negative perceptions of the relationship.

Other radical changes in Damascus could include the start of the transfer of power from President Hafez Assad to his son, Bashar, coupled to a far-reaching reform and modernization program.

The paper says Bashar is expected

to be named one of three new vice-presidents, with responsibility for Lebanese affairs, as part of a series of personnel and policy changes following next January's general congress of the ruling Ba'ath Socialist Party.

The new Syrian approach is also likely to be accompanied by a major shakeup of Syria's political and military hierarchy, spawning a new generation of leaders who will implement domestic reforms and modernization plans to bolster Syria's regional and international standing.

Underlying these changes, according to *Al-Watan al-Arabi*, is the conclusion in Damascus that the peace process has effectively been "put on ice until further notice."

The Syrians believe this will remain static until there is a change of leadership in Israel - which it

does not expect soon - or until a successor is found for US President Bill Clinton, whose domestic difficulties are perceived to rule out any serious effort to inject life into the peace process.

Damascus believes that Israel has been given a "long vacation" while the peace process remains dormant. Faced with this prospect, the Syrian leadership perceives the forthcoming period as one of consolidation, during which it will seek to "reorder its domestic and regional cards" until it resumes talks with Israel.

In addition to its fresh approach to Lebanon, this will entail a reconsideration of Syria's ties with the Iraqi leadership, while maintaining close cooperation with Iran, not least to ensure the continuation of Lebanese resistance to Israel's presence in South Lebanon.

Palestinian sovereignty on UN agenda

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - The UN General Assembly, convening for its 53rd session, has included the question of the "permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory" on its agenda.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is anxious that if Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat appears at the assembly against the backdrop of a stalemate in the peace process, the UN could serve as a dramatic and sympathetic forum for any announcement about statehood plans, a source said.

Netanyahu, who is scheduled to address the assembly on September 24, a week before Arafat, is expected

to try to preempt the question of Palestinian statehood, sources said.

Although the votes in that forum are not binding, the Palestinians appear to have a majority in the assembly.

Arafat, scheduled to address the assembly on October 2, appears likely to reiterate the intentions regarding statehood he broached earlier this month in a speech to the Non-Aligned Movement.

At the movement's meeting in South Africa, Arafat called on "friends and brothers" for their support as the Palestinians aim for a "historic decision" on May 4, 1999, to declare a state in the territories under Israeli control since 1967.

Israeli Ambassador to the UN Dore Gold bristled at the possibility. "We entirely reject the notion

that the Oslo agreements expire at a certain point in time," he said yesterday.

The Palestinians previously

sought some semblance of the recognition at the UN of sovereign rights, by upgrading the Palestinian observer's status.

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Defending against chemical attack
A participant in a joint IDF, police and Magen David Adom chemical warfare defense drill yesterday delineates an area in Ramat Chen that has been 'contaminated.'

PA: We'll cancel economic agreements unless closure is lifted

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Palestinian Authority Finance Minister Mohammed Nashashibi warned yesterday that he would cancel all economic agreements with Israel unless it lifts the IDF closure of the territories.

Speaking at a news conference in Gaza, he said that the closure is costing the Palestinians \$9-\$10 million daily. He called the closure a violation of the Oslo Accords and said the Palestinians would cancel economic cooperation unless their freedom of movement is restored.

Nashashibi said the closure and other Israeli measures would not stop the Palestinians from plans to establish an independent state in May, "because the declaration of the state is a great historical goal."

He appealed to the international community to press Israel to end the closure. At the same time, he called on the donor nations to fulfill their pledges to the PA, saying only about 30 percent of the money has been transferred.

Nashashibi also said he was disturbed by the successful test of Israel's Arrow 2 missile on Monday. He warned of a new arms race that would threaten the region and called on the US to end military aid to Israel.

At the same time, Nashashibi called on the US to double its \$100 million of annual aid to the PA.

As Nashashibi was attacking Israel, Hamas condemned the PA for allowing the opening of a new casino in Jericho saying it would serve the rich and the "Zionists."

In a statement referring to the \$50 million Oasis Casino, the Islamic movement said "Violating God's orders and walking onto the path of the devil will not lead the people towards its freedom and liberation of the land."

Aimed primarily at Israelis and foreign tourists, it is off limits to Palestinians unless they hold foreign passports.

"The self-autonomy authority insists on opening a gambling casino in Jericho to service the Zionists and those who became rich over the suffering of our people in refugee camps and the diaspora," Hamas said.

Yassin threatens Israeli leaders

In a veiled threat against Israeli leaders, Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin said yesterday that those who ordered the killings of two top Hamas fugitives "should be afraid" for their safety.

The fugitives, brothers Imad and Adel Awadallah, were shot dead last week when Israeli troops raided their West Bank hideout.

In response to killing of the Awadallahs, Hamas said it would detonate suicide bombings in Tel Aviv in retaliation.

In an interview with The Associated Press yesterday, Yassin said: "Any person whose hands are stained with the blood of our people ... should be afraid. He should expect a reaction to the attack ... because he is the one who decided to carry out the attack and the one who decided to kill people," Yassin said.

Asked whether he was referring to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Yassin said Hamas was not targeting the Israeli prime minister specifically, noting that Netanyahu "lives in a high tower," an apparent reference to the tight security surrounding the prime minister.

David Bar-Illan, senior aide to Netanyahu, said it was "regrettable that instead of fighting terrorism, the Palestinian leaders level threats of murder against Israeli leaders."

Yassin said Hamas would continue its attacks against Israeli targets. "Hamas has a clear strategy to resist the occupiers until we will liberate all of Palestine," Yassin said. "The occupiers should expect anything from us." (AP)

Police raid home near Hebron

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Israeli police raided the home of Palestinian Legislative Council member Abbas Zaki near Hebron and arrested two Palestinians inside, sources said.

Palestinian sources said yesterday. Police said they found weapons in the house.

Officers arrested Hussein Ali Ahmed Kurdi and Nasser Mohammed Ali, who were staying in Zaki's home, the Palestinian sources said.

Zaki said he was outraged by the IDF raid and has called on the government to offer an official apology. Police said that the house did not belong to Zaki and that one man was arrested.

Kahalani asks Vilna'i to join Third Way

By NICHAL YUDELMAN

Third Way leader Avigdor Kahalani yesterday asked former deputy chief of general staff Matan Vilna'i to join the party.

Vilna'i, who has not yet decided whether to enter politics, promised to consider the proposition. He also said he would consider accepting Kahalani's invitation to attend a party gathering in three weeks.

Kahalani's offer follows MKs Yehuda Harel's and Alex Lubotzky's (both Third Way) meetings with MK Dan Meridor (Likud) to discuss the possibility of forming a new centrist bloc.

Harel, Lubotzky and the faction's fourth MK, Emanuel Zissmann, are reportedly increasingly annoyed with Kahalani's refusal to give up his position as minister of internal security, despite the stalemate in the peace process.

Kahalani astonished his faction members, all three of whom had voted with the opposition to advance the elections, when he recently announced the government must continue in office.

Lubotzky and Vilna'i have recently formed a social movement, together with Meimad activists, as a possible basis for a joint centrist party.

The Third Way secretariat convened yesterday to discuss the possibility of leaving the government immediately, due to its failure to decide on a pullback.

The proposal, presented by Uri Heitner, was to leave the government, but not to act to topple it. However, party members expressed doubt Kahalani could be convinced to give up his cabinet seat.

"Kahalani is stuck to his seat," a senior party source said. "Nobody takes him seriously anymore." He was referring to Kahalani's repeated threats over the past year to quit if the pullback isn't implemented.

The secretariat is expected to continue its debate in the future.

Syria protests Israel-Turkey ties

By DANA HARMAN and news agencies

Turkey's military cooperation with Israel is an impediment to regional peace, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara said at the opening of the Arab League meetings in Cairo yesterday.

"This cooperation is a serious threat to the Arab national security," said Shara, referring to Israeli-Turkish exercises held this year.

"The development of military ties with Turkey exposes Arab national interests to real danger and brings the region back to the policy of axes and alliances," Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdel-Meguid told the opening session.

"They are complaining about a military alliance which just does not exist," the Turkish ambassador to Israel Israel Barlas Ozener said.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's communications director David Bar-Illan said it was "disturbing" that Israel's relationship with Turkey was attracting so much attention, but not surprising.



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NEWS

in brief

Ministers decline to consider Nimrodi's pardon

The government secretariat will have to decide which minister should consider *Ma'ariv* publisher Ofer Nimrodi's request for a pardon, after two ministers have asked to be relieved of the task, the Justice Ministry spokesman said yesterday. Nimrodi was sentenced on July 2 to eight months in jail and a 10-month suspended for wiretapping several senior editors of *Yedioth Aharonot*. Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi originally requested to be relieved of the obligation to decide on the pardon, on the grounds that he had personal connections with Nimrodi. The case was then passed on to Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai. But Yishai, who read the file, announced this week that he is too busy with his own ministerial affairs and could not devote sufficient time to making a decision "on such a complicated affair."

Batsheva Tsur

Pupils to make up days lost to strike

The nation's school teachers and pupils will have shorter Succot, Hanukka, and summer vacations after an agreement was signed yesterday to make up the days of school lost to the strike. The following days will be added in all schools: Isru Hag Succot, October 13, and the second day of Hanukka, December 15. Elementary school pupils and kindergarteners will also go to school on July 1, 2, 4 and 5, 1999. Junior high and high school pupils will add June 21-24. An Education Ministry spokesman said this schedule would also apply to those state-religious schools that conducted abbreviated sessions during the strike. In the Arab sector, the missed days will all be made up at the end of the school year, beginning on July 1 in elementary schools and on June 21 in junior and high schools.

Aryeh Dean Cohen

Suspect in Elimelech murder speaks to family

Mazal Elimelech spoke yesterday during an Army Radio program with Yehuda Shelef, who is suspected of murdering her 12-year-old daughter, Nava, in 1982. Shelef strongly denied that he had killed the girl. "I have no connection to this affair," he said. "My ex-wife made false accusations against me." Shelef, who is under house arrest, said that investigators had taken him to a cemetery in Holon and asked him to light a candle on the grave of Nava Elimelech. "They thought I would identify the place, and I told them that I had never been there. I swore on the grave that I have no connection to this affair." Mazal Elimelech told Shelef she wanted to meet privately with him to discuss her daughter's fate.

Itim

Immigration down slightly in 5758

A total of 57,450 immigrants came to Israel in 5758, the Absorption Ministry announced yesterday in a rundown of immigration statistics for the year. The previous year, some 60,000 immigrants arrived, a ministry spokeswoman said. Immigrants from the former Soviet Union were again the largest single group at 44,853, followed by Ethiopia (2,818), France (1,523), the US (1,414), Argentina (612), Great Britain (329), Canada (210), and Bulgaria (205). Haifa absorbed the most immigrants, followed by Jerusalem, Ashdod, Bat Yam, Beersheba, Rishon LeZion, Netanya, Tel Aviv, Hatzot Yassaf, and Petah Tikva. The smallest number of immigrants came from New Zealand, with 12. August 4 was the busiest day of immigration, with 826 newcomers arriving.

Aryeh Dean Cohen

Har-Shefi sentencing postponed

news agencies

Defense attorney Sefi Elon asked for leniency yesterday during final arguments at the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court over the sentencing of Margalit Har-Shefi for failing to prevent Yitzhak Rabin's assassination by her friend, Yigal Amir.

Elon said that far-right activist and General Security Services mole Avishai Raviv, whom he

termed Amir's "best friend," bore the responsibility for not preventing the assassination.

Judge Nira Lidski, who scolded Har-Shefi for showing up late to hearings, slouching in her chair at the trial and failing to stand when addressed, put off sentencing to September 27.

Har-Shefi remained silent while prosecutors asked the court to impose the maximum two-year sentence. No character witnesses

were called on her behalf.

Prosecutor Pinna Guy said Har-Shefi knew about Amir's "intentions to set up an underground, of his two previous aborted attempts to kill Rabin, and of a cache of weapons hidden at the Jewish settlement of Beit El."

Elon told the court: "A GSS man belonged to Amir's inner circle. A GSS man held conversations with him. He was his best friend and he failed to prevent the assassination."

Judge Lidski said in her conviction ruling in June that Har-Shefi knew Amir had been stalking Rabin, then prime minister, for months and could have prevented his murder had she informed authorities.

Elon asked that the court impose a suspended sentence and spare Har-Shefi from going to prison. Har-Shefi never had specific information on Amir's plans and did not take him seriously when he talked

about killing Rabin, Elon said.

He said her responsibility to prevent the murder paled compared with that of Raviv.

Former GSS chief Carmi Gillon has said that while Raviv helped Amir organize anti-government rallies, he never delivered specific information about Amir's intention to assassinate Rabin.

State prosecutors are still weighing whether to indict Raviv for failing to prevent the murder.

Some math difficulties may be gene-based

By JUDY SIEGEL

A cognitive defect that causes people to have difficulty in mathematical calculations is apparently caused by a defective gene, according to researchers at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, who will now search for the gene.

Drs. Ruth Shalev and Varda Gross-Tzur headed a research team from the hospital's pediatric neurology unit that studied 33 Jerusalem children diagnosed with the condition - called dyscalculia - and 29 mothers, 17 fathers and 75 siblings; also included in the study were six affected children and 51 relatives living in kibbutzim in the Beit She'an area.

They found that 66% of the children's mothers, 65% of the fathers and 54% of the siblings suffered from dyscalculia as well - compared to a five or six percent prevalence in the population at large.



Sounding the shofar

Rabbi Maya Leibowitz (hand on shofar) and nursery school director Ayelet Feller Nitzan explain the customs of Rosh Hashana to children at the nursery school of Kehilat Mevasseret Zion yesterday.

(Flash 90)

Knesset to fight to keep Ethiopian TV program

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

"We will not allow *Through My Eyes*, aimed at the Ethiopian Jewish community to be taken off the screen," Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee chairman Naomi Blumenthal said yesterday in a committee discussion

aimed at heading off removal of the program from Educational Television.

The half-hour weekly program includes news reports, features, and advice on and about the Ethiopian Jewish community.

The committee decided it would act to see the program continue,

and that Blumenthal would ask Education Minister Yitzhak Levy to see to it that the producers are no longer required to pay rights fees to the Second Channel Authority.

ETV representatives told the committee their budget had been cut not only for programs in Amharic, but for all programming, and that under current conditions, they could not finance continuation of the program, which today requires NIS \$50,000.

MK Adisu Massala (Labor) said the program is the only media tool, other than the radio, which is aimed at the community. "This is a shame and a disgrace," he said. "The Education Ministry and the government always have money for the settlements and the

haredim. It's the weak ones they hurt. This is a serious blow to the community. The other immigrant groups have plenty of media channels."

David Meharet, of the Ethiopian Immigrants Steering Committee, said the program is watched by some 52,000 families, and proposed translating TV programs into Amharic.

Shlomo Mula, of the Absorption Ministry, who is responsible for absorption of the Ethiopian immigrants, said that the program should not be taken off, and that it should not be necessary to have to beg for it to be continued.

Yohanan Ben-Ya'acov, head of the Education Ministry's absorption authority, said the ministry

had doubled the original budget for programs in Amharic to NIS 500,000. He said the ministry and the steering committee decide on funding priorities together, as that Levy had indicated his readiness to change them in consultation with the committee.

Meanwhile, the ministerial directors-general committee dealing with the absorption of Ethiopian immigrants yesterday discussed a series of proposals aimed at boosting higher education in the community, and improving the achievements of pupils in the school system.

The number of Ethiopian university students is increasing, and will stand at about 2,000 this academic year, up from 1,400 last

Heart Society accuses media of distorting survey results

By JUDY SIEGEL

Heads of the Israel Heart Society yesterday accused the Israeli and British media of misrepresenting a World Health Organization epidemiological survey and claiming that it proved

"there is no connection between smoking or blood cholesterol levels and cardiovascular diseases."

In a press conference yesterday, society chairman Prof. Alexander Battler, of Beersheba's Soroka Hospital, criticized newspapers for reporting the work as research,

while in fact it was a survey.

He also was critical of the way the survey was done, saying that the data used was old and that the criteria used were not uniform.

The survey first appeared in the British newspaper *The Independent* when a reporter attended a Vienna medical lecture by a participant in the WHO's MONICA (Monitoring Cardiovascular Diseases) study. It also was the subject of front-page story in *Ma'ariv* on Tuesday.

Prof. Eliezer Kaplinsky, who is chairman of Sheba Hospital's cardiology institute, said the newspaper stories "misinterpreted" the Vienna lecture. Battler said that the MONICA survey, whose data was collected separately in 21 countries from 1980 to 1990, was "bad science," as there were no control groups or uniform standards and measurements of cholesterol and other means used to ensure accurate analyses.

In any case, he said, exaggerated conclusions were drawn in media reports that - published so prominently in an Israeli tabloid "set back our preventive efforts for years."

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Minister defends adding five rabbis to Archeology Council

By LIAT COLLINS

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy yesterday defended the addition of five national religious rabbis to the Archeology Council, saying it would further archeological activity while reducing tension with the haredim.

"All talk about harm being caused the council is baseless," Levy said. The council advises the Education and Culture Ministry and the National Antiquities Authority, which operates under the ministry.

The rabbis are Ya'acov Rose, Amram Beit-El, David Stav, Yisrael Rosen, and Ya'acov Ariel. Levy said adding the rabbis to the other 32 members on the council will reduce the clashes with the haredim over excavations and ultimately contribute to greater archeological activity. In cases in which there has been a conflict between science and Halacha, such as the autopsy issue, "only by introducing enlightened rabbis involved in both worlds have mutually acceptable solutions been found," he said.

"Anyone who cherishes both the unity of Israeli society and

progress in archeology should welcome the decision which will ultimately benefit both."

However, Hemdat (the Council for Freedom of Science, Religion, and Culture in Israel) and the Archeologists Association called Levy's decision "shocking and arbitrary."

Hemdat secretary-general Zamira Segev said it is the sign of a "clear trend to harm independent research and cause the almost total paralysis of excavations in which graves are discovered."

"Would the Education Minister appoint archeologists to the Rabbinate or religious councils?" she asked.

MK Hagai Merom (Labor) who heads the archeological caucus in the Knesset, said Levy had "turned an academic body into a religious-political body which could harm archeological research."

The head of the Antiquities Authority Amir Drori said he had not yet received a list of the new members of the council, despite requesting it. Reports in July that Drori would be replaced caused angry demonstrations by archeologists and caucus members.

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy yesterday hit back at critics of his decision to drop the criterion that youth movements be "Zionist" in order to receive funding, saying his opponents are engaging in "righteous hypocrisy."

An Education Ministry press release spoke of an "orchestrated campaign against Levy by 'several groups with special or political interests' against his decision."

Referring to left-wing critics, Levy said: "The self-righteousness of the knights of democracy screams to the skies because their fight for justice and equality always stops, for some reason, when the matter gets to the rights of the religious and haredi public."

Levy repeated that the ministry had always financed all youth movements functioning in Israel, under all education ministers, and the criteria for receiving funding

were based on the High Court of Justice's ruling, which sought to prevent discrimination between them.

"In the final analysis, all that is happening is that what until now has been kept quiet, and hidden under the table, will be out in the open, official, open and organized, and even just and ethical," Levy stated.

He said the ministry stands by its commitment to increase funding to Zionist youth movements, to the point where it will be doubled, and this will not be harmed by funding the non-Zionist movements.

Earlier yesterday, the Meimad movement termed Levy "an additional representative of the haredim in the government, expressing the religious radicalization of the National Religious Party."

"While he talks about [social] contracts and bridging the gap between religious and secular, he

acts for the good of the public which does not identify with Zionist values and serving in the IDF, thereby distancing large groups of people from identifying with Jewish tradition," Meimad said.

Prof. Hillel Shufat, chairman of Hemdat, the Council for Freedom of Science, Religion and Culture in Israel, also attacked the decision, saying: "Instead of strengthening the Zionist and religious Zionist ideology, the minister in charge of education has bowed to haredi dictates and is causing the erosion of basic Zionist values that are the foundation of the state."

Labor MK Avraham Shohat told Israel Radio "this education minister is a religious man bordering on haredi, radical when it comes to politics, culture and values, and this isn't the first thing he's done to transfer money to bodies affiliated with the NRP."

Meretz MK Dedi Zucker put a

different spin on dispute, saying that if being Zionist is no longer a criteria for funding, Arab youth groups could also be eligible.

"The High Court of Justice ruled on this matter and said that it didn't want a country in which people receive allocations based on their world view. Being a Zionist is not a definition according to which one should receive money from the state," he said.

"I don't want to live in a country where a Zionist gets money, a non-Zionist doesn't, an Arab doesn't get because he's not a Zionist, a new immigrant who isn't Jewish doesn't get money. This is a warped world view, and in a civilized state, one should receive money based on being a citizen, and not your world view."

Shmuel Abuav, chairman of the education committee of the Union of Local Authorities in Israel, said that the funding of haredi youth organizations by the ministry

would bankrupt the Zionist youth movements and force their closure.

He said that there are currently 12 Zionist and religious Zionist youth movements which are recognized, totaling some 257,000 participants. There are some 1872 branches of the organizations throughout the country, and about 335 in development areas or poverty-stricken neighborhoods. Because of financial difficulties, branches in distressed neighborhoods had to close, he said.

The current controversy is an outgrowth of a High Court of Justice decision in March, in which the court ruled that four haredi youth movements should have Education Ministry funding cut off. The decision followed a petition by Zionist youth movements. In Levy's interpretation, the ruling nevertheless left the minister leeway to decide on criteria for funding.

'Rapist from south' indicted for rape, kidnapping, sodomy

By AMY KLEIN

The "rapist from the south" was charged yesterday in the Jerusalem District Court with rape, kidnapping in order to perform sexual acts, performing indecent acts, and carrying out acts of sodomy. Eight women were the victims of his alleged crimes.

After a three-week investigation, the State Attorney's Office issued the indictment against 25-year-old Amiram Edri of Kiryat Malachi, and requested he be held in custody until the end of the proceedings.

Judge Gidon Ginat will rule on that request in 10 days.

Edri denies raping or attempting to rape any of the women, according to his lawyer, Lior Tamashin.

A ban on the publication of Edri's picture and identifying details was lifted yesterday.

From June 8 until August 22, the charge sheet said, Edri kidnapped eight women, aged 16-22, in order to molest them. Three of the incidents occurred in the Kiryat Gat area.

In each incident, Edri picked up women hitchhikers and offered them jobs in his purported day camp. During the ride - or sometimes on a second work date he set up - Edri detoured into a forest or deserted area. He then locked the doors, leaned the seats back and molested the woman in the car.

The charge said Edri often threatened to kill the women, and promised not to rape them if they cooperated.

He attempted to rape two of the women - one of whom ran away, the other who fought him - and raped his seventh victim.

His first victim, a 16-year-old, testified that Edri asked her if she had

ever been kissed on the lips, and when she said no, he kissed her and said, "There is always a first time."

Other women testified Edri pulled the car over and said "Now it's time for sex," or "now you have to do whatever I tell you." Edri was arrested on August 28. Wearing a black plastic bag over his head yesterday, Edri refused to comment on the charges. Tamashin said he does not know if his client is fit to stand trial.

"He is a victim of sexual molestation himself, and I think this outburst over the last few months is a result of that," said Tamashin. He said that as a child Edri was molested over a long period of time.

The State Attorney's representative, Eli Abarbanel, accused the accused is sane due to the nature of his job. Since the beginning of this year, Edri served as deputy-director general of the organization Netivei Etzion, a national-religious institution which has a boys school, a dormitory, kindergartens and a kollel.

A state psychologist examined Edri and has yet to submit his recommendations. Tamashin also requested Edri undergo a separate, private psychiatric examination.



Come and get it!

Gerardo Feldman, a pharmacist at the Superpharm branch on Jerusalem's Rehov Hahistadrut, displays boxes of the anti-impotence drug Viagra, which went on sale in pharmacies yesterday.

Events mark Ozone Layer Protection Day

By LIAT COLLINS

Environmentalists were looking up yesterday, the International Day for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.

Israel is one of the 160 countries party to the Montreal Protocol which established a schedule for the phase-out of substances which harm the ozone layer.

Danny Itzigsohn, head of the Environment Ministry's Air Quality Department, said Israel takes the protocol very seriously. "For us every day is Ozone layer protection day," he said.

Although ozone close to the ground is harmful and creates smog, the ozone found in the stratosphere

acts as a shield protecting Earth from ultraviolet radiation which is believed to contribute to health risks ranging from skin cancer to cataracts.

"The focus on ozone layer protection has largely moved from the private individual to industry and agriculture," Itzigsohn said. "But you can check that aerosols do not contain CFCs or use recycled CFCs, which is now mostly the case."

Most ozone-destructive materials are subject to a production phase-out although their use is still permitted, Itzigsohn said. Since all CFCs will eventually escape and reach the stratosphere, the trend is to stop production but use and recycle existing CFCs rather than destroy them.

Uzbekistan sees Israel as defense partner

By STEVE RODAN

Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov wrapped up his visit yesterday, pledging to consider a wide-ranging defense relationship with local industry.

Karimov spent his last hours here at Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd., where he expressed interest in virtually all of the defense systems he was shown by his hosts.

"What if I take one, will you give me a ground command and control system to operate this?" Karimov asked his IAI hosts as he was shown the Hunter unmanned air vehicle.

The Uzbekistan president, who is familiar with defense indus-

tries, praised the successful launch of the Arrow anti-missile missile and said he was willing to discuss cooperation with IAI in a variety of fields, including satellites.

"We definitely need help in the areas you pointed out," Karimov told IAI president Moshe Keret, "and your reputations will give us the possibility to benefit from the cooperation that we badly need."

Karimov, who is also interested in agricultural cooperation, said he agreed to defense cooperation with Israel during the stopover of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai in Tashkent two weeks ago. He would not detail the areas of cooperation.

Chicago Islamic group said laundering funds for Hamas

By GIL HOFFMAN

CHICAGO - The Quranic Literacy Institute, a Chicago-based Islamic organization that had some \$1.4 million in cash and property seized by the FBI in June, has until tomorrow to file a response in US District Court to allegations of involvement in efforts to launder money for Hamas.

The FBI arrested Mohammed Salah on suspicion of transferring funds from the organization to Hamas. According to FBI affidavits, the funds were later used to purchase the weapons that killed Sgt. (res.) Yuval Tutan, and wounded two other soldiers in a December 1992 terrorist attack near Hebron. Salah, 46, had previously served nearly five years in Israeli prison for being a member of Hamas and channeling funds to the terrorist group.

The federal government has filed a civil suit against Salah and the Quranic Literacy Institute and employed civil forfeiture laws, normally reserved for drug dealers, to seize their assets.

The Chicago Tribune reported last week that the FBI is also investigating a number of other non-profit Islamic organizations and several real estate developers in the Chicago area as part of a nationwide investigation into fundraising for terrorist groups in the Middle East.

According to the report, federal investigators have alleged that organizations like the Quranic Literacy Institute are involved in a complex money laundering scheme in which money for terrorist groups is raised through Chicago area real estate ventures.

The State Department created an anti-terrorism task force about four years ago to attempt to cut off the flow of funds from the US to Hamas and to investigate Israeli claims of a Hamas military training outpost in the Chicago area.

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Isaac Cohen, director of the Economic Commission for Latin America, a UN-sponsored research agency in Washington, DC. (Los Angeles Times)

Iran army heads for Afghan border war games

News agencies

Iran said yesterday that nine army divisions were heading for the tense Afghan border for military exercises that could begin as early as Saturday.

At the same time, Iranian naval forces were added to the maneuvers.

But Iran's Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said diplomatic and peaceful approaches should be given a chance before taking military action.

A military communique reported by the official news agency IRNA said three army divisions were already in Iran's eastern region.

Some 70,000 Revolutionary Guards, including paratroopers and commandos, conducted exercises in the region last week and were ordered to stay on, as tension between Tehran and the ruling Afghan Taliban militia mounted over 11 Iranian diplomats and a journalist missing in Afghanistan.

The bodies of six of the diplomats and the journalist were flown home to Tehran on Monday. Iranian authorities could not positively identify two other bodies.

But two other diplomats from the Iranian consulate in Mazar-i-Sharif, the northern opposition stronghold captured by the Taliban five weeks ago, returned home after fleeing the militia. Foreign Ministry sources quoted by IRNA said.

The Taliban army, meanwhile, said it was ready to negotiate a peace treaty with Iran, but warned yesterday that its arsenal was a formidable one that includes Scud missiles.

The Russian-made Scud missiles are the same missiles Iraq used to target Israeli cities during the Gulf War.

The missiles, with a range of about 160 to 280 kilometers, are designed to hit large targets, like cities, where they can do the greatest amount of damage.



Tehran University students demonstrate in support of the Iranian leadership's stance in its dispute with Taliban yesterday. (AP)

"We have deployed our soldiers with all kinds of weapons," including the Scud missiles, said Hakim Mujahed, the Taliban's delegate to the UN.

He said the Taliban inherited the Scuds when they threw out their opponents from the northern stronghold of Mazar-i-Sharif last month.

IRNA, quoting "Communique No. 1 of the Zolfaghar Operation Headquarters," said the nine army divisions were equipped with tanks,

personnel carriers, heavy artillery, helicopters, grenade launchers, engineering equipment, field hospitals and tents.

"The nine divisions are due to reach eastern Iran by Saturday to launch the military exercise 'Zolfaghar-2'," it said.

It said Zolfaghar headquarters had designed five exercises on tactical arrangements of armored, mechanized, infantry, artillery and commando units.

Earlier, the Iranian navy said it would join in the war games by sending several marine battalions to a lake shared by Iran and landlocked Afghanistan.

And the Basij, an all-volunteer militia commanded by the Revolutionary Guards, said in a statement it was "ready to defend the oppressed people of Afghanistan and to preserve the Islamic Iran's security across its eastern borders," IRNA said.

A leading conservative newspaper demanded military action to punish the Sunni Moslem Taliban, which predominantly Shi'ite Moslem Iran accuses of genocide against Afghan Shi'ites.

"Before it is too late, we must think of a measure to punish this criminal group," said the Persian-language daily *Qods*, which is run by a major Shi'ite religious foundation based in Khorasan province bordering Afghanistan.

Yeltsin fills key cabinet posts

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin filled several top posts in the cabinet yesterday, but the new government's strategy for tackling the economic emergency remained fuzzy and the ruble displayed new signs of weakness.

The president issued a stream of appointments, and has now given new Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov four deputy premiers — three of them considered moderate reformers and one a Communist technocrat.

After years of feuding between the president and his rivals in parliament, the new government is shaping up as an attempt to accommodate Russia's disparate political factions.

However, the president and the premier have yet to spell out their plan for easing Russia's economic crisis, regarded as the worst since the Soviet Union collapsed seven years ago.

Two top economic officials in the new government appeared to disagree on whether to print more rubles to pay millions of workers

owed several months of overdue wages. The government has said its top priority will be to end this chronic problem.

Central Bank chairman Viktor Geraschenko said Tuesday he favored expanding the money supply so the government could pay frustrated workers and pensioners. But Alexander Shokhin, a reformer named deputy prime minister in charge of financial issues, said he opposed the idea.

"I'm not rejecting the possibility of printing money, but I am against the viewpoint that simply cranking up the money printing presses will solve all our problems," Shokhin told a news conference yesterday. "If we manage to restore popular confidence in the government, that will allow us to avoid printing money."

While supporting reforms, Primakov has said that he opposes the "wild capitalism" that has emerged in Russia, and indicated that the government intends to play a stronger role in the economy.

Berisha denounces gov't plan to arrest him

TIRANA (Reuters) — Defiant Albanian opposition leader Sali Berisha yesterday denounced government plans to prosecute him and his followers as coup plotters and called for a national day of protest tomorrow.

The former Albanian president led a peaceful march of several thousand supporters through the streets of Tirana, where seven people have been killed and another 76 wounded in politically inspired street violence since Sunday.

Albania's parliament met to consider lifting Berisha's immunity from prosecution, but no decision was reached and observers said it would be the weekend, at least, before any final vote was taken.

"This is an act of madness and real national betrayal which shows the determination of [Prime Minister] Fatos Nano to destroy the opposition and the whole of Albania," Berisha told reporters at his Democratic Party headquarters.

Berisha was referring to the Nano government's plan, announced on Tuesday, to prosecute the plotters of an alleged coup that plunged the capital into chaos on Sunday and Monday. He rejected the charge that he had attempted to gain control of

the country through violent, extra-constitutional means and accused the ruling Socialist Party of murdering Democratic Party stalwart Azem Hajdari at the weekend.

That murder, the former president said, brought angry people into the streets. The protesters were then fired upon by government forces during Hajdari's funeral on Monday.

As for losing his immunity and facing arrest, Berisha seemed to dare Nano and the Socialists to do their worst.

"I am ready to continue my battle in every position," he told reporters, hinting at the possibility of his arrest.

"I do not want to preserve any immunity for myself in this state without laws," Berisha spoke to supporters from the balcony of his party headquarters and called for Democrats throughout Albania to come to Tirana tomorrow for a national day of protest.

Tomorrow is the first anniversary of the wounding of Azem Hajdari, the same man shot dead at the weekend, by a Socialist lawmaker in a corridor of the parliament building.

The planned protest, the next obvious flashpoint in Albania's current crisis, will reveal Berisha's

ability to mobilize his followers and could prove a severe test of government restraint.

The Nano government appeared in firm control of Tirana yesterday, having faced down armed supporters of Berisha who had been guarding the Democratic Party building with Kalashnikovs and two tanks taken from army troops on Monday. Both tanks were surrendered without a fight late on Tuesday and Berisha's gunmen had melted away from the headquarters building before a dawn deadline laid down by Nano.

Under Albanian law, the charge of armed uprising carries a sentence of life imprisonment or even the death penalty.

WORLD

in brief

Allies step up drive for Kosovo deal

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — The NATO allies yesterday increased pressure on Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic with a new UN resolution on the Kosovo crisis and a warning that their threat to intervene militarily has not expired.

A NATO official said the new UN resolution, drafted and co-sponsored by France and Britain, would be introduced to the Security Council in the coming days.

It would condemn violence by Serbian security forces in Kosovo and set certain demands for Milosevic to meet over the next few weeks, he said.

Russia completes missile test program

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russia yesterday test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile from its Plesetsk cosmodrome, a spokesman for the Strategic Rocket Forces said. He said the launch marked the successful completion of its summer testing program, *Itar-Tass* news agency reported.

The rocket was aimed at a training target in the remote Kamchatka Peninsula in the far eastern part of the country. "It reached the target and dropped to earth," the spokesman said. "It had an imitation warhead."

Turkish troops kill 29 Kurdish rebels

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (AP) — Turkish Troops killed 29 Kurdish rebels in fighting in country's southeast, authorities announced yesterday. The clashes took place in the Hakkari region over the past 24 hours, the announcement said.

Kurdish rebels, fighting for autonomy since 1984, offered on September 1 to have a cease-fire, but both Turkey's military and government have rejected the offer.

Some 37,000 people have died in the conflict.

Amnesty: Algeria report a whitewash

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Amnesty International yesterday called a report by a UN fact-finding team to Algeria a whitewash, saying it failed to address key human rights abuses.

The UN report, made available Tuesday, acknowledged that the UN team had neither the means nor the mandate to conduct investigations into the six-year wave of violence that has overwhelmed the country.

Amnesty particularly criticized the panel members for failing to address conclusions of the UN Human Rights Committee, which has condemned grave violations by government forces including torture, disappearances and extrajudicial executions.

UK unemployment falls to near 20-year low

LONDON (AP) — Unemployment in Britain fell to 4.6 percent last month, the lowest level in nearly two decades, the government reported yesterday. The number of people claiming welfare fell by 16,400 to 1.3 million, down 0.7%, and the lowest figure since the summer of 1980.

Singapore founder worked for Japanese

SINGAPORE (AP) — In his newly published memoirs, Singapore's elder statesman Lee Kuan Yew recalls working for Japanese occupation forces during World War II.

Lee's book, *The Singapore Story*, was released yesterday, his 75th birthday, amid great fanfare.

While condemning Japanese behavior during the occupation, Lee looks back with unusual candor at the years when the struggle for survival forced him to work for the Japanese propaganda department, and on the local black market.

Reader's Digest to auction the best of its art

NEW YORK (AP) — The Reader's Digest Association will auction 39 paintings and sculptures from one of the world's most valuable corporate art collections, as it battles declining stock prices and disappointing circulation.

The artworks, including masterpieces by Matisse, Cezanne, Monet, and van Gogh, will go on the block November 16. The auction is part of a larger reorganization announced yesterday by Reader's Digest to boost profits, which also includes millions of dollars in cost cuts and efforts to reach younger readers.

Charles Schumer to challenge D'Amato for NY Senate seat

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Brooklyn Congressman Charles Schumer easily won the New York Democratic primary election on Tuesday and will challenge Republican Alfonse D'Amato in the Senate race in November.

In a primary characterized by an extremely light voter turnout, Schumer overwhelmed his opponents: Geraldine Ferraro of Queens and New York City Council Public Advocate Mark Green.

Schumer, a nine-term congressman from Park Slope, got 51 percent of the vote, followed by 27% for Ferraro and 19% for Green.

Schumer, who is Jewish, was the favorite in all ethnic groups, other than Hispanics, according to exit polls. He captured 69% of the Jewish vote, the exit polls

showed.

In his victory speech, Schumer said D'Amato cannot be trusted. Among D'Amato's lapses, Schumer said, was that he reneged on a campaign promise of six years ago not to seek re-election for a fourth term in the Senate.

"If we've learned one thing in his last 18 years in the Senate, it is that Al D'Amato has been there too long," Schumer said.

In other races, Peter Vallone, the New York City Council Speaker, is the Democratic nominee for governor, challenging the incumbent, George Pataki.

Noah Dear, the Orthodox City Council member from Brooklyn, failed in his bid to take Schumer's seat in Congress, coming in third in a field of four candidates.

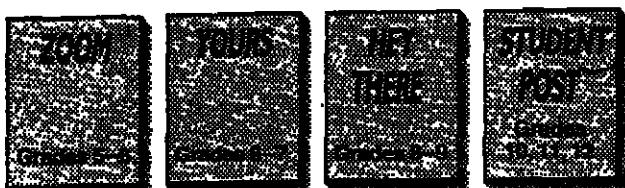
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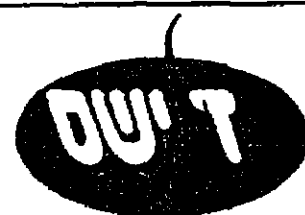
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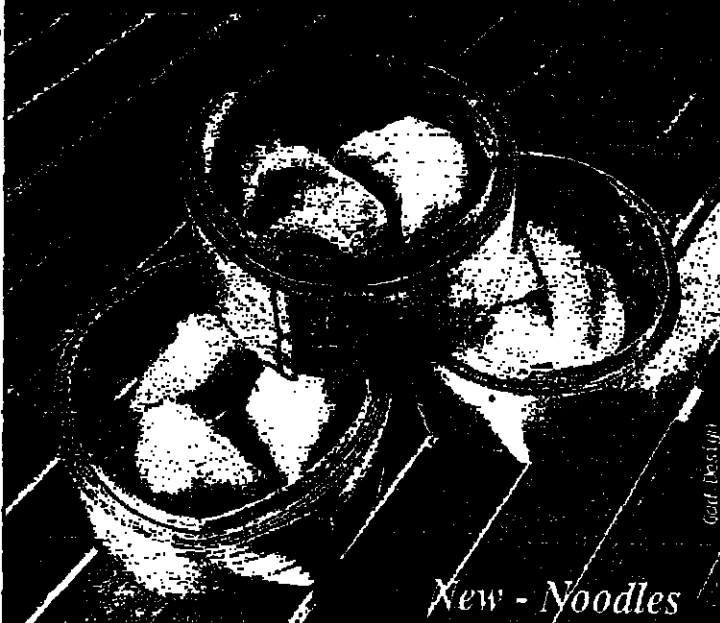
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Records show CIA funded 1960s Tibetan program

Though US support for the Tibetans' anti-China activities was long an open secret, newly declassified documents provide the details. Jim Mann reports from Washington

For much of the 1960s, the CIA provided the Tibetan exile movement with \$1.7 million a year for operations against China, including an annual subsidy of \$180,000 for the Dalai Lama, according to newly released US intelligence documents.

The money for the Tibetans and the Dalai Lama was part of the CIA's worldwide effort during the early years of the Cold War to undermine Communist governments, particularly in the Soviet Union and China.

In fact, the US government committee that approved the Tibetan operations also authorized the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

The documents, published last month by the State Department, illustrate the historical background of the situation in Tibet today, in which China continues to accuse the Dalai Lama of being an agent of foreign forces seeking to separate Tibet from China.

The CIA's program encompassed support of Tibetan guerrillas in Nepal, a covert military training site in Colorado, "Tibet Houses" established to promote Tibetan causes in New York and Geneva,

education for Tibetan operatives at Cornell University and supplies for reconnaissance teams.

"The purpose of the program... is to keep the political concept of an autonomous Tibet alive within Tibet and among foreign nations, principally India, and to build a capability for resistance against possible political developments inside Communist China," explains one memo written by top US intelligence officials.

THE declassified historical documents provide the first inside details of the CIA's decade-long covert program to support the Tibetan independence movement.

At the time of the intelligence operation, the CIA was seeking to weaken Mao Tse-tung's hold over China. And the Tibetan exiles were looking for help to keep their movement alive after the Dalai Lama and his supporters fled Tibet following an unsuccessful 1959 revolt against Chinese rule.

Tibetan exiles and the Dalai Lama have acknowledged for many years that they once received support from US intelligence. But until now, Washington refused to release any information about the CIA's Tibetan operations.

The US intelligence support for the Tibetans ended in the early 1970s after the Nixon administration's diplomatic opening to China, according to the Dalai Lama's writings, former CIA officials and independent scholars.

The Dalai Lama wrote in his autobiography that the cutoff in the 1970s showed that the assistance from the Americans "had been a reflection of their anti-Communist policies rather than genuine support for the restoration of Tibetan independence."

The newly published files show that the collaboration between US intelligence and the Tibetans was less than ideal.

"The Tibetans by nature did not appear to be congenitally inclined toward conspiratorial proficiency," a top CIA official says ruefully in one memo.

The budget figures for the CIA's Tibetan program are contained in a memo dated January 9, 1964. It was evidently written to help justify continued funding for the clandestine intelligence operation.

"Support of 2,100 Tibetan guerrillas based in Nepal: \$500,000," the document says. "Subsidy to the Dalai Lama: \$180,000." After listing

several other costs, it concludes: "Total: \$1,735,000."

The files show that this budget request was approved soon afterward.

A later document indicates that these annual expenses continued at the same level for four more years, until 1968. At that point, the CIA scrubbed its training programs for Tibetans inside the United States and cut the budget for the entire program to just below \$1.2 million a year.

In his 1990 autobiography, *Freedom in Exile*, the Dalai Lama explained that his two brothers made contact with the CIA during a trip to India in 1956.

The CIA agreed to help, "not because they cared about Tibetan independence, but as part of their worldwide efforts to destabilize all Communist governments," the Dalai Lama wrote.

"Naturally, my brothers judged it wise to keep this information from me. They knew what my reaction would have been."

The Dalai Lama also wrote regretfully in his book that the CIA had trained and equipped Tibetan guerrillas who conducted raids into Tibet from a base camp in Nepal.

The effect of these operations "only resulted in more suffering for the people of Tibet. Worse, these activities gave the Chinese government the opportunity to blame the efforts of those seeking to regain Tibetan independence on the activities of foreign powers — whereas, of course, it was an entirely Tibetan initiative."

Lodi Gyari, the Dalai Lama's personal representative in Washington, said last week that he had no knowledge of the CIA's \$180,000-a-year subsidy or how the money was spent. "I have no clue whatsoever," Gyari said.

Speaking more generally of the CIA's past support for the Tibetans, Gyari acknowledged: "It is an open secret. We do not deny it."

THE CIA has long resisted efforts to disclose information about its Tibetan operations.

Warren W. Smith Jr., author of a recent book on the history of Tibet, said he believes that the newly published documents are the first to describe the CIA's Tibetan operations.

Until now, information about the CIA plans has come from "[Tibetan]

exiles and a few old CIA agents," Smith said. "None of the agents involved would know detailed information about things like the budget." A brief internal history of the CIA's Tibet operations shows that the Eisenhower administration first formally approved covert support to the Tibetan resistance in September 1958, at a time when the Tibetans were conducting guerrilla raids against Chinese army units.

The US intelligence operations were overseen in Washington by the executive branch's top-secret "303 Committee."

On May 20, 1959, only a few weeks after the unsuccessful Tibetan revolt, the 303 Committee approved the first covert support specifically for the Dalai Lama, who had just arrived in India. These covert CIA programs were re-approved several times during the 1960s.

In 1964, the CIA decided that one of the main problems facing the Tibetans was "a lack of trained officers equipped with linguistic and administrative abilities."

The files show that the Tibetans were keeping close track of US policy toward China. In fact, they sometimes had a better sense of what

Washington was about to do about China than did the rest of the world.

On December 6, 1968, a month after Richard Nixon was elected president but before he took office, the Dalai Lama's brother told a senior State Department official that the Tibetan exiles were afraid "of an accommodation the United States might make with the Chinese Communists."

Undersecretary of State Eugene V. Rostow told him not to worry. Rostow said that "we [the United States] would not make any accommodation with the Chinese Communists at the expense of Tibet."

Over the next four years, the Nixon administration carried out its opening to China, and the CIA's Tibetan operations were shut down.

The US government now provides some financial support for Tibetans, but openly and through other channels.

In recent years, Congress has approved about \$2 million annually in funding for Tibetan exiles in India. Congress has also urged the administration to spend another \$2 million for democracy activities among the Tibetans.

(Los Angeles Times)

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The power of the televangelist

THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN AMERICA? by Robert Boston. New York, Prometheus Books. 248 pp. Price not stated.

By Shimshon Arad

Someone had to write a book about the evangelist Pat Robertson and the rise of the "Christian Coalition" in the United States, but I am not sure that the author of this volume has produced the best book possible. He has assiduously collected illuminative material to indict Pat Robertson as an antisemite and a paranoid, a zealot and a sleazy demagogue. What else do we want? As Jews and as Israelis we could rest our case and our judgment on the basis of the material gathered by Robert Boston. And yet it will probably require a sharper pen to cope with the broader context.

We could safely reject the pathetic plea of some of Robertson's neo-Conservative Jewish friends, who have been laboring for years now to excuse and exonerate him because of his supposed "support for Israel." The Israel of our day does not need the support of such fellows. The ones who desperately look for such succor have their own factional (American, not Israeli) agenda. Cheap antisemitism is despicable even if, for whatever ulterior motive, they plead for Israel. Their pleading only embarrasses us. The data provided by the author are adequate for us to reach that conclusion.

A few biographical notes might be helpful for a better understanding of the Pat Robertson phenomenon. He was born in 1930 to Willis Robertson, a Virginia Democrat who served 14 years in the House of Representatives and 20 years as a US senator, rather on the conservative side of American politics. Following brief service in the Korean war, Pat Robertson enrolled in Yale Law School, but he was unable to pass the bar examination and decided to try his hand at a number of business ventures in New York. They all ended in failure. He married in 1954 and, 10 weeks after the wedding, his first child was born. Having had a premarital relationship did not bother him when he later preached Christian chastity.

His interest in fundamentalist Christianity is attributed to his mother, who was convinced in 1956 "that her son was living in a spiritual void." Pat Robertson subsequently enrolled in the New York Theological Seminary. He became a "born again" Christian, something his young wife did not particularly cherish at the time. She is reported to have said: "You have become fanatic. All you do is read that Bible all day and sit around and talk to Jesus. I am a nurse. I recognize schizoid tendencies when I see them, and I think you are sick."

The author's interest in Robertson goes back to the early 1980s, when he was a college student. He admits to being concerned about "the mounting power of the Religious Right." The book he has produced is an attempt to explain why he thinks Robertson is "dangerous." It appears to be well documented.

Robertson's teachings espouse theocracy, or a church-state union to some degree, and, since he is a very powerful factor in Republican politics today, there is good reason to be concerned. "Family values" are supposed to be the principal message of Robertson and his conservative Christian supporters. But family values are also shared by liberals, by Jews, and by people of other creeds. When Robertson tried to run in the Republican presidential primaries, he naturally claimed "to have God's backing," but, says the author, "this campaign was certainly less than divine."

Throughout the campaign, Robertson was dogged by accusations that, as president, he



Evangelist Pat Robertson

would use the power of government to enforce his narrow theological beliefs and abolish the separation of church and state. Meeting with journalists of the *Washington Post*, Robertson declared that "a Supreme Court ruling is not law." It is "not the law of the United States," and the Congress of the US is not subservient to the Court, a claim heard against the Supreme Court in our land by our own indigenous rightists.

Lashing out against the traditional American historical heritage of separation of church and state has been a normal practice for Robertson. This principle of separation "was never in the Constitution," claimed the evangelist from Virginia. Such language, he maintains, "only appeared in the constitution of the communist Soviet Union." Ralph Reed, the director of the Christian Coalition and the alter-ego of Robertson, would have no compunction in stating time and again that "we believe in a separation between church and state that is complete and inviolable." Reed repeated that line before the Anti-Defamation League and the American Jewish Committee, while Robertson was blasting that separation as "a Communist plot." A familiar division of labor pursued by similar radical organizations.

Robertson and Reed occasionally claim Jewish support, but their own survey in the mid-'90s found that Jewish members accounted for only two percent of the group. "Observers," says Boston, believe that "most of them are Messianic Jews, that is, Jewish converts." The third most prominent spokesman in the Robertson clan is a converted Jew named Jay Sekulow. A book by Robertson bearing the somewhat presumptuous title of *The New World Order*, was published a few years ago and was generally ignored by the mainstream media. That situation changed abruptly in February

1995, when Michael Lind, a senior editor at *Harper's* magazine, published a lengthy review of the book in the *New York Review of Books*.

Lind charged that Robertson's book "was based on a laundry list of anti-Semitic sources" and he provided "ample documentation to prove it." Lind referred to an ADL publication quoting Robertson as saying that Jews were "spiritually dead" and "spiritually blind," but that "in the climactic end times many would be converted." What a reassuring prospect. Robertson clearly suggests that "the money barons of Europe," chiefly the Rothschilds and their agents (a category that includes not only Warburg and Schiff but also "the Rothschild publication, *The Economist*"), incited or exacerbated World War I, the Cold War and the Gulf War in order to boost military spending by various governments and increase the need for compound-interest loans, that "eighth wonder of the world."

Robertson talks about the part that "Jewish intellectuals and media activists have played in the assaults on Christianity." Liberal Jews, he writes, "have actually forsaken Biblical faith in God," simply because they fail to accept his political agenda. His paranoid impulse brings him to the following ludicrous statement: "persecution of American Christians" by "the liberals" is comparable to "what the Jews experienced in Nazi Germany." Christians are "persecuted" in America! And the evangelist who keeps repeating this rubbish wishes to be pardoned because of his "support of Israel!"

Robertson, says Boston, has been a supporter of so-called Messianic Judaism, also known as "Hebrew Christianity." This movement actively works to convert Jews to fundamentalist Christianity. With this merchandise on offer, we should be extremely wary.

Minor was major contributor to 'OED'

THE PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN: A Tale of Murder, Insanity and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary by Simon Winchester. HarperCollins. 160 pp. \$20.

By Judith Schlesinger

Robin Williams would be perfect as W.C. Minor, the brilliant, mad, gentle, white-bearded scholar-murderer, tormented by his "prodigious sexual appetite" and phantom nocturnal visitors who operate on his heart and feed him metal biscuits.

A Yale PhD and self-schooled linguist, William Chester Minor was a major contributor to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, a monumental achievement that required 70 years, 12 volumes and 178 miles of handset type to produce what remains the definitive record of the English language.

Minor is unhinged by his Civil War service and transferred to the future St. Elizabeth's Hospital (home to Ezra Pound and John Hinkley). Honorably discharged, he goes to England to "quiet his inflamed mind," but becomes increasingly paranoid and shoots a stranger he thought had been hiding under his bed.

Minor is committed "to safe custody until Her Majesty's Pleasure be known" in Broadmoor, the noto-

rious institution for "certified criminal lunatics." Her Majesty's Pleasure - as well as his own escalating madness - kept him there for 38 years, 20 of them spent working on the *OED*.

Fortunately, *The Professor and the Madman* is more than a garden-variety tale of genius gone awry. It is also the story of genius fulfilled, in James Augustus Henry Murray, the brilliant, Scottish-born shepherd of the *OED* (Liam Neeson? Sean Connery?), who was similarly white-bearded, fussy, curious and a precocious linguist who tried to reach Latin to his family's cattle.

Murray enlisted his 11 children to help compile the dictionary, building a 15-by-50-foot tin shed in his garden that he called the "Scriptorium." They were paid to work 30 minutes a day in the "Scriptory," but the *OED* was primarily assembled by volunteers, such as Minor, who responded to the "adverts" for help.

The friendship between Murray and Minor unfolds within the chronicle of the book's lineage and creation. The *OED* was an astonishing enterprise in that pre-computer age, requiring more than six million definition "slips" (Minor alone contributed 10,000 in his tiny, perfect handwriting); every nuance of a word was required, with its first published appearance especially prized.

The idea was incubated in the quintessentially Victorian Philological Society, which held that "the spread of English throughout the world was divinely ordained." Among its members was Henry Liddell (father of the Alice who inspired *Wonderland*). Murray was also friendly with Henry Sweet, whom George Bernard Shaw would immortalize as the "notoriously pigheaded, colossal ruddy phonician" Henry Higgins.

These minor characters are mentioned, rather than drawn, but they evoke the quirkiness of the age, as does the author's throwaway line: "The English placed the scatterbrain on a pedestal." Minor sent his meticulous contributions from his comfortable book-lined suite at Broadmoor, a fact Murray initially overlooked because he was "too busy to think about it or who he might be." What Minor was, officially, was a "monomaniac," because there was no schizophrenia in 1877.

The author makes a thoughtful attempt to explain his madness, but, as the jacket states, he's a "writer and adventurer." Besides, this is not a psychological autopsy - it's a fascinating little story, lively and well paced, about two geniuses, a lost culture and an incomparable treasure of a book. (The Baltimore Sun)

Wooden hagiography

HILDEGARD, The Last Year by Barbara Lachman. Boston, Shambhala. 134 pp. \$20.

By Haim Chertok

Hildegard of Bingen was a 12th-century Christian mystic who from infancy claimed to have visions and hear voices. She was delivered into a convent at the age of eight. Appointed a prioress in 1136, she became abbess of her own convent in 1147. Author of *The Journal of Hildegard of Bingen* (1993), Barbara Lachman now pursues her subject's inner life in 1178, the year of the martyrdom of Thomas à Becket, as Hildegard at 80 unflinchingly approaches her own death.

A dispute with ecclesiastical authorities in Mainz over Hildegard's determination to bury an excommunicant as a Christian leads to the imposition of silence on her community of nuns, interdiction of her daily routine of chant and public prayer. Hildegard, blessed with higher knowledge that the dying man had in fact been reconciled, remains resolute.

Such is the meager tension supporting this jejune work of historical imagination. The problem, of course, is that Hildegard is a saint, a figure suffering no pangs of illa-

tion or doubt. Lachman's faithful account is likely to appeal to the faithful, but as a work of fiction is desperately deficient in psychological conflict.

Moreover, it is stylistically wooden. Consider the opening paragraph of a typical journal entry: "I wonder if it is only my imagination that begins to see our community as one piece of the much larger puzzle involving powerful players from both Church and state. The powers that entangle us were just those I had hoped to place in abeyance when, some fifteen years ago, the emperor awarded Rupertsberg a charter of protection in perpetuity. I thought the charter would strengthen a wall of protection for us against the machinery of worldly politics. Yet it was around the same time that sacred and secular authority became, alternately, ever more sharply pitted against one another or hopelessly entwined in nearly all of Western Christendom."

"Alternately," my foot. "Hopelessly entwined," my left foot. Is this the journal of the saint or an op-ed for the *Wall Street Journal*?

All in all, for a relatively slight book, it's certainly a mighty cross to bear.

STEIMATZKY'S BESTSELLING PAPERBACKS

- | | |
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| 1. Mark of Cain by Ram Oren. Keshet. | 6. 10 lb Penalty by Dick Francis. Jove, Pan. |
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| 3. The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy. Flamingo. | 8. The Matinee Countdown by Robert Ludlum. HarperCollins, Bantam. |
| 4. Special Delivery by Danielle Steel. Dell. Corp. | 9. Quality Pleasures by Lawrence Sanders. NEL, Berkeley. |
| 5. Angels' Ashes by Frank McCourt. Touchstone. | 10. The Reader by Bernard Schlink. Phoenix. |

BOOK BYTES

Conservative ex-foreign minister Douglas Hurd (now Lord Hurd of Westwell) has carved out a novel from his long career in British politics. Taking its title from a Thomas Hardy poem, *The Shape of Ice* (Little, Brown) fictionalizes the near-future life and times of prime minister Simon Russell, Tony Blair's successor. A crisis in Russia drives the plot forward.

Hurd's portrait of political life blends a colorful cocktail of people and events. Finger-pointing is difficult, because Hurd the author works hard at disguising past realities. In the novel the PM's family is not allowed to use napkins at breakfast, because the linen is reserved for official dinners. "I made that up," says Hurd, "but the point of it is true." He explains that Margaret Thatcher used to rent a silver dinner service for special occasions, because silver is not a part of No. 10 Downing Street's allotted equipment. And John Major had a keen sense for sizing up people's reactions from their body language and moods. So a character might say, "Didn't you notice how his hands moved, his expression when somebody said such-and-such?"

In the past Hurd has written several other thrillers, and this year he is chairing the judges for the Booker Prize.

SPEAKING of the 1998 Booker Prize, the management committee has decided to accept its first Internet novel - Patricia Le Roy's *The Angels of Russia* (www.online-originals.com) - as an entrant in the 1998 competition. Online Originals' co-editor David Getman, who is fed up with the current state of publishing, says, "We're delighted. We thought it was a good idea to take advantage of the new medium to publish new authors or more risky work by

established authors."

It had to be said. Novelist Peter James pummed on the rise of digital book selling: "In future, recommendations will not be just word of mouth, but word of mouse."

AT A RECENT London literary dinner in his honor, South Africa's former president F.W. de Klerk was delighted to find himself in the company of many other cigarette smokers. "I am glad to find so many smokers here," he said. "It leads me to conclude that publishing in Britain must be as stressful as politics." De Klerk was in London for meetings with the bigwigs at Macmillan, publishers of his forthcoming autobiography, *The Last Trek*. Concern that his habit might set off the company's highly sensitive fire alarm system forced him to decamp to the street when lighting up. But the South African made the best of it. "At least it gave me the chance to meet all the people who will be working on my book."

ALEXANDER KENT (a.k.a. Douglas Reeman) is bringing down the curtain on his *gallant navy hero* Richard Bolitho. In his 23rd novel, *Sword of Honour* (Heinemann), Kent "kills off" Admiral Bolitho "without any dramatics and with very abrupt suddenness. In spite of the tragedy, common enough in any sort of warfare, I found the story a compelling one to write. It is what Bolitho has always called fate."

AON/Alber G. Ruben, a major American insurance broker in the entertainment industry, has developed a new policy that will limit authors' exposure to libel suits. Depending on the deductible, authors pay premiums of between \$250 and \$500. The one-time premium per book covers the author for five years.

David Brauner

The New York Times BESTSELLERS

HARDCOVER Fiction

1. *Rainbow Six* by Tom Clancy. (Putnam \$27.95) John Clark, heading an international task force, investigates terrorist incidents in Europe.
2. *Tell Me Your Dreams* by Sidney Sheldon. (Morrow \$28) Three women suspected of committing brutal murders undergo a bizarre trial with a curious defense.
3. *I Know This Much Is True* by Wally Lamb. (Regan Books/HarperCollins \$27.50) A troubled man must care for his schizophrenic identical twin and face the nightmares of their family.
4. *The First Eagle* by Tony Hillerman. (HarperCollins \$25) Two Navajo policemen pursue a mysterious killer - a plague or a person?
5. *No Safe Place* by Richard North Patterson. (Knopf \$25.95) The perils suffered by a senator running for president in the year 2000.
6. *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden. (Knopf \$25) The life of a young woman growing up in Kyoto who has to reinvent herself after World War II begins.
7. *Summer Sisters* by Judy Blume. (Delacorte \$21.95) Two women from different backgrounds come of age together on Martha's Vineyard.
8. *Message in a Bottle* by Nicholas Sparks. (Warner \$20) After finding a seashore bottle containing an enigmatic letter, a divorced woman encounters love.
9. *Point of Origin* by Patricia Cornwell. (Putnam \$26.95) Dr. Kay Scarpetta battles an old enemy, a serial killer who has escaped.
10. *Bridget Jones's Diary* by Helen Fielding. (Viking \$22.95) A year in the life of a thirty-something female.

HARDCOVER Non-fiction

1. *The Day Diana Died* by Christopher Andersen. (Morrow \$27) An account of the events surrounding the death of the Princess of Wales.
2. *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom. (Doubleday \$19.95) A sportswriter tells of his weekly visits to his old college mentor, who was near death's door.
3. *A Pirate Looks at Fifty* by Jeremy Saffell. (Random House \$24.95) While traveling to the Amazon, the singer-songwriter reflects on his half-century of life.
4. *The Death of Outrage* by William J. Bennett. (Free Press \$20) A former secretary of education takes a critical view of the Clinton presidency.
5. *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt. (Scribner \$24) An Irish-American recalls his childhood.
6. *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson. (Broadway \$25) A journalist hikes the Appalachian trail.
7. *The Millionaire Next Door* by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko. (Longstreet \$22) The lives of wealthy Americans disclose that they have seven characteristics in common.
8. *Conversations with God: Book 1* by Neale Donald Walsch. (Putnam \$19.95) The author addresses questions of love, good and evil.
9. *Diana: Portrait of a Princess* by Jayne Fincher and Judy Wade. (Calloway/Simon & Schuster \$35) More than 500 photos of the late Princess of Wales.
10. *A Monk Swimming* by Arundhati Roy. (Harper Perennial \$13) Death and secrets haunt a once-prosperous family in India.

PAPERBACK Fiction

1. *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood* by Rebecca Wells. (Harper Perennial \$13.50) Three generations of Southern women.
2. *Cold Mountain* by Charles Fraczer. (Vintage \$13) A wounded Confederate soldier journeys home toward the end of the Civil War to meet an old love.
3. *Special Delivery* by Danielle Steel. (Dell \$6.50) Romance comes to a pair who once disliked each other.
4. *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks. (Warner Vision \$5.99) A WWII veteran meets an old flame who is about to be married.
5. *Little Altars Everywhere* by Rebecca Wells. (Harper Perennial \$13) Earlier experiences of the Ya-Ya sisterhood.
6. *The Best Laid Plans* by Sidney Sheldon. (Warner \$7.99) The relationship between a power-hungry governor and a woman seeking revenge.
7. *Petals on the River* by Kathleen E. Woodiwiss. (Avon \$6.99) An Englishwoman finds love with a widower in 18th-century Virginia.
8. *She's Come Undone* by Wally Lamb. (Pocket \$7.99) A woman's harrowing progress from youth to middle age.
9. *Orphans: Butterfly and Crystal* by V.C. Andrews. (Pocket \$3.99) A troubled orphan is adopted by a couple who hope she will become a ballerina.
10. *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy. (Harper Perennial \$13) Death and secrets haunt a once-prosperous family in India.

PAPERBACK Non-fiction

1. *The Perfect Storm* by Sebastian Junger. (Harper Paperbacks \$6.99) The story of the nor'easter of 1991, focusing on fishermen from Gloucester, Mass.
2. *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer. (Anchor/Doubleday \$7.99) A journalist's account of his ascent on Mt. Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history.
3. *Under the Tuscan Sun* by Frances Mayes. (Broadway \$13) A celebration of the Italian countryside.
4. *D-Day, June 6, 1944* by Stephen E. Ambrose. (Touchstone/S&S \$16) An account of the Allied invasion of Normandy.
5. *A Child Called "It"* by Dave Pelzer. (Health Communications \$9.95) The autobiography of a man who survived his mother's abuse.
6. *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer. (Anchor/Doubleday \$12.95) A young man's obsession with the wilderness.
7. *The Color of Water* by James McBride. (Farrar \$12) A black writer recalls growing up with his white mother in Brooklyn.
8. *Citizen Soldiers* by Stephen E. Ambrose. (Touchstone/S&S \$16) The US Army from Normandy to Germany's surrender.
9. *The Climb* by Anatoli Boukreev and G. Weston Dewart. (ISI Martin's \$6.99) Another account of the 1996 Mt. Everest disaster.
10. *Brain Droppings* by George Carlin. (Hyperion \$10.95) Comments on life by the stand-up comedian.

PAPERBACK Miscellaneous

1. *Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution* by Robert C. Atkins. (Avon \$6.50) Ways to lose weight and achieve a healthy body.
2. *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff... and It's All Small Stuff* by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$8.95) How to enjoy life more and contribute to the world we live in.
3. *Protein Power* by Michael R. Eades. (Bantam \$6.50) Two physicians offer a protein-rich, low-carbohydrate plan for losing weight.
4. *The Beanie Baby Handbook* by Les Fox and Sue Fox. (West Highland \$6.95) A guide for collectors of the toys.

HARDCOVER Miscellaneous

1. *Sugar Busters* by H. Leighton Steward et al. (Ballantine \$22) A diet designed for losing weight, increasing energy and combating disease.
2. *The 9 Steps to Financial Freedom* by Suze Orman. (Crown \$23) Practical and spiritual steps for managing your money.
3. *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus* by John Gray. (HarperCollins \$25) Improving communication and relationships.
4. *Eat Right 4 Your Type* by Peter J. D'Adamo with Catherine Whitney. (Putnam \$22.95) Diets to suit each of the four blood types.

THE JERUSALEM POST

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Poisoned atmosphere

Maybe now that the Palestinian Authority has gone beyond its usual verbal attacks against Israel and directly insulted the US in its *Al-Hayat al-Jadida* daily newspaper, Palestinian official pronouncements will finally be given the scrutiny they deserve.

The Palestinian press, which since the establishment of the PA, has for all intents and purposes become an organ for official Palestinian positions, routinely publishes articles that violate every promise made by PA Chairman Yasser Arafat in the Oslo Accords to publicly promote and educate towards peaceful and normal relations with Israel.

Independent monitoring groups regularly cite radio programs, television broadcasts and newspaper articles in the PA that depict Israel as "the Zionist enemy" and glorify military attitudes and actions.

Only last month an official Palestinian television broadcast featured a "summer camp" that trains children in the use of automatic weapons while they chant about the glories of dying as a suicide warrior. Articles denying the Holocaust and caricatures with distinctly antisemitic messages are so routine that they barely attract any attention.

Indeed, in this the Palestinians are not alone in the Arab world. The government yesterday published a report showing how, despite two decades of peace, antisemitic themes continue to permeate the official Egyptian media.

But even against this background, the editorial appearing in yesterday's *Al-Hayat al-Jadida* was shocking, in both its crudity and its target.

In language reminiscent of *Der Stürmer*, the classic Nazi antisemitic journal, the editorial viciously attacked not only its regular Israeli targets, but also Dennis Ross, the American mediator whose rank is that of a senior diplomat.

It is difficult to overstate how insulting the article is. Ross is described as a "Shylock" belonging to an international Jewish conspiracy, demanding his pound of flesh from the Palestinians. His actions, and by implication American policy, are depicted as designed to further Israeli interests, and US claims to being a fair mediator are derisively dismissed.

Let anyone think that the editorial, insulting as it may be, represents only its author and does not reflect on the opinions of the Palestinian leadership, it should be pointed out that *Al-Hayat al-Jadida* is known to be a Fatah-controlled newspaper. Its articles are very carefully scrutinized before they are allowed to appear.

And if that weren't enough, the editorial appeared in a regular column in the paper devoted

to publicizing official Fatah movement positions. There is not a chance that any Palestinian reader of the daily could have failed to fully understand who is standing behind the article; it is the Fatah movement, which forms the central core of the PLO and is Yasser Arafat's faction.

Despite the fact that incitement is far from a new phenomenon in the Palestinian media, both Israeli and American policymakers have tended to ignore it. This is based partly on the belief that attention should be focused on actions rather than words, and partly on the assumption that pressing Arafat on the subject would weaken him domestically and strengthen worse elements, such as Hamas.

Such a policy is wrong on both counts. Statements made repeatedly in the officially controlled media are not mere words. They play a major role in shaping public opinion and setting the tone for public discourse, and thus bear a direct relationship to actions taken.

And turning a blind eye to anti-democratic and militaristic elements within the PA is a disservice to Israel, American interests, and the interests of the Palestinians themselves.

The vicious tone and the content of the editorial attacking Ross also raise questions regarding the willingness of the Palestinian leadership to finally strike a deal on further redeployments.

For weeks now, reports have indicated that very small gaps exist between the sides, and that only minor details regarding passage through the Karmi industrial zone or the exact nature of the proposed "nature reserve" remain to be worked out.

Yet an announcement on a further redeployment agreement is still being awaited. The indications are that now, after Israel has virtually accepted all of the American initiative and agreed to a 13% pullback in the West Bank, it is the Palestinian side that is holding matters up.

Arafat's statement yesterday that Ross's mediation trip was a failure even before it ended, coupled with the publication of the insulting editorial, seems to confirm that Arafat is more interested in fanning incitement than working out an agreement.

Finally, the US cannot permit itself to go about its business as usual after yesterday's insulting article that attacked its envoy and its integrity as an honest mediator. Even with the current political shenanigans in Washington, the US has a reputation to preserve. At the very least, it should demand an explanation and apology.

It would also be a good idea for American and Israeli policymakers to pay more attention to the public statements made by Palestinian officials. No peace process can seriously proceed in a poisoned public atmosphere.

So, what's new?

HELEN SCHARY MOTRO

After a week abroad you lose touch with local reality. Even if you have been receiving regular calls from home. Upon landing back home you rush to ask the first person you meet, "What's new in the country?" That might be the taxi driver at the airport. He pitches you suitcases into the truck, then shrugs and answers, "You want to go by the meter or you want a flat fee?"

Finally on the last leg of the journey, whether traveling east to Jerusalem, north toward Haifa, or just a hop, skip and jump away into the octopus arms of Tel Aviv, you are agitated to find yourself inching along a highway with one lane closed for construction, encircled by convoys of trucks coughing diesel fumes in your direction.

Even if you have reset your watch, you feel the need to confirm with the driver that it's really 9:30 local time. This couldn't still be the rush hour, you say to yourself in awe.

AFTER 24 hours, you'll feel like you never left. And nothing will get you back in swing quicker than a tour of the press. You expect to open the newspaper and read something new, but it's a hope doomed for disappointment. Nobody has ever re-entered the country on a day where at least one paper didn't report: "Sharansky threatens to resign."

Whether you are returning from a family vacation, a mid-winter ski holiday tucked on the end of a business trip, an organized jaunt to Turkey bridging a holiday weekend or a convention, three-quarters of the following headlines are

guaranteed to greet your arrival: "Americans urge pullback," "Labor squabbles over leadership," "Record death toll on roads," "Police interrogate editor," "Judge rules on forced confession," "Prospects for subway line dashed," "Man kills wife, then self," "Kinneret falls to danger level" and "Minister denies ethnic slur."

Then there's: "Jerusalem train breaks down," "Army spokesman writes off sex discrimination," "Human rights abuses revealed," "Likud MK defects to Labor," "Labor MK crosses to Likud," "Rapist strikes again," "Above-average temperatures forecast," "Rain snarls traffic," "Government squeals through no-confidence vote," "Victory predicted against Real Madrid."

On the culture front: "Religious Protest Arts Festival," "Broadcast authority plans overhaul," "Coalition in jeopardy over Shabbat movies," "New Holocaust museum planned."

And on the economic scene: "Pension funds in disarray," "Subsidies cut," "CEO dismissed for improprieties," "Cost-of-living rises," "Dollar soars," "Employment down for quarter."

THE BIBLE is proved right once again: there is nothing new under the sun.

Essentially the same headlines were around a decade ago, and if you look back to the future, they promise to be part of whatever form newspapers take in the new millennium too.

Every country suffers from its own sacred cows, those particular news preoccupations that never seem to go away. Italian papers never fail to feature the murder of

Lurie's NewsCartoon



a judge who dared jail mafiosi. England will run at least one story detailing the idiosyncrasies of the royal family. French editorials predictably pontificate on preserving the purity of their linguistic heritage. A hurricane will always be reported lurking off the coast of Florida. And New York dailies cite violent crime dramatically up, unless they cite it dramatically down.

So when you open an Israeli paper and find the latest installment in the non-kosher meat import controversy, you know you're really home.

Returning on El Al a few weeks

ago, I hungrily asked for every local paper the flight crew were handing out from their little trolley. A quick glance confirmed that all was as usual. I read, "Histadrut warns nationwide walkout," "Teachers promise strike." And yes, there it was: the comforting, the inevitable, "Sharansky threatens to resign." So what else is new?

Suddenly a bombshell hit me: After more than 20 years on TV, "Zehu Zeh" was to be no more. Anything but this, I panicked. We can survive with all those depressing repetitive headlines. But can we survive without Zehu Zeh to help us overcome them?

Ritter's warning

AARON LERNER

called off the inspections because its aggressive monitoring threatened to break up the coalition which backed the UNSCOM program. But what's the point of the program if it isn't allowed to work?

Paradoxically the Clinton Administration could have used the major discoveries, which the canceled inspections promised, to bolster America's ability to insist on Iraqi compliance.

ONE WOULD think that this stunning news would be a major topic

How about the opposition? Labor MK Ephraim Sneh is in Washington now with three other members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He has been warning about Iran, but he told me the Ritter story "doesn't come up in the conversations. These are his claims against the US government and we aren't getting involved - we didn't come here to oppose the US government."

Sneh is well-aware of the seriousness of the situation. "What is clear is that the inspection regime

Pat Buchanan's charge that Israel's supporters dragged Bush into the Gulf War still has a chilling effect

of conversation in Israel, but it isn't. The Israeli media barely touches what may turn out to be the most critical story of this generation.

And the Israeli government? "The question of Iraq concerns us all," Prime Minister Netanyahu told me. "It concerns the United States as well. I don't want to get into the particular question of Mr. Ritter's testimony except to say that in the aggregate I believe that Saddam Hussein poses a challenge to everyone - to Israel, to the United States, to the peace and stability of the Middle East and beyond the Middle East. So I think the need to insure that his intentions are not left unchallenged is crucial for everyone."

These aren't rumors from mysterious unknown sources. Scott Ritter sacrificed his career so that he could share his warning call with the world. His message is clear: The Clinton administration has backed down from seriously dealing with the threat Saddam Hussein presents today to the region and the world.

Albright explains that America

is in danger," he warns. "It has been eroded and is going to be eroded and it means that the danger of Iraqi missiles may become, in a very, very short time, a real danger again, and this is another reason for us to enhance our countermeasures."

Molelet leader MK Rehavam Ze'evi calls for Israel to openly demand that the Clinton administration take action before it is too late. "It can't be that they speak aggressively to us about the percentage of a redeployment," he explained, "and yet when Saddam Hussein overtly threatens the peace in the Middle East he is treated with kid gloves."

"The US got exhausted after six

or seven years of embargo," Ze'evi says, "and the outcome is that we are the ones who will suffer the results."

A senior member of the American Jewish peace groups explained that the Iraqi threat is important - as a talking point for pushing for Israeli withdrawals. After all, he argued, what do a few percentages [in the West Bank] matter when Iraq has the bomb? His group has no plans to alert Clinton of its concerns.

The mainline American Jewish community also hesitates to take a conspicuous stand. As one leader explained, they don't want to be seen as Clinton bashers, nor do they want the Iraq issue to be seen as a Jewish rather than universal issue. Pat Buchanan's charge that Israel's supporters dragged Bush into the Gulf War still has a chilling effect.

If the Iraqi challenge was a matter of decades - or even years - such arguments for restraint might have merit. But from everything that Ritter tells us we are not talking about years, but the near term. Israel's supporters won't have to stand alone on this issue.

American legislators from both sides of the floor are starting to express concern, as have some of the leading American editorial writers. But the story requires momentum. It needs events and activities to move the American public's focus, even momentarily, from President Clinton's potential impeachment to his administration's dangerous passivity.

Can we meet the challenge? The alternative is beyond comprehension.

The View From the East

DAOUD KUTTAB

Lessons of history

One of the least-understood aspects of living under occupation is the nature of the relationship between the occupier and the occupied.

A foreign military occupation is like no other repressive rule. There is absolutely no limit as to what the occupier can and will do. The feelings and lives of the occupied are not part of the natural considerations of those in power.

The dynamics of a government being responsive to its citizens, who ultimately decide on its political fate, don't apply in a case of a country occupying another people against their will.

As a journalist I have often thought of this issue. In a normal setting journalists write about an issue of public interest. The issue becomes a public concern, governments chosen by the people are aware of public opinion and try in one way or another to address the concern. Obviously, in repressive societies the system doesn't work like that. But even in such repressive regimes civil government made up of the same nationality as the citizens under its rule have limits as to what they will allow to happen to their citizens.

In the case of Palestinians living under Israeli occupation, which

includes the 2.6 million living in Gaza and the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) the situation is unique.

Israeli rulers, from a private soldier to the minister of defense, have little interest in the lives of Palestinians under their rule. We see that from the way they deal with Palestinians at checkpoints to military orders signed by the Israeli minister of defense.

When national countries face security threats from within or from without they take special precautions, both on the intelligence level and in the streets. But no matter how serious and dangerous the threat is, normal governments do not impose widespread restrictions on their own people.

They take special care not to interrupt normal life. In countries that are not military dictatorships, political leaders refuse to allow the security people to wreak havoc in the country even if it is done in the name of national security.

LAST WEEK, after Israel assassinated two Palestinian Islamic militants, the security apparatus acted with impunity towards the Palestinian people. More than two million people were literally

locked up in a large prison.

Workers were barred from going to work in Jerusalem and in Israel. Families were not allowed to travel to or through Israel. Palestinians from the West Bank who found themselves in Gaza when the closure was announced were told they had to wait four more days until a special bus was organized to take them home.

Wide-ranging repressive decisions like closures violate the Geneva Convention, which considers collective punishment illegal according to international treaties. In addition, decisions like closures reflect more and more the apartheid-like discriminatory policy of the state of Israel.

When Israelis are killed, as happened in Hebron a few weeks ago, Palestinians are punished by being placed under curfew. This is explained as a policy of deterrence. Making Palestinian pay a high price for the actions of their fellow nationals will influence the militants not to carry out any more acts of violence.

When Palestinians were killed, as happened last week, a closure was imposed to prevent Palestinian acts of retaliation. So, whether Israelis or Palestinians

are killed, the entire Palestinian public is made to pay a price. And since closures only affect those with permits (and therefore security clearance), the futility of this action from a security perspective is evident.

Five years ago, when the Oslo Agreement was signed, Palestinians were hoping that their lives would no longer be controlled by a foreign military power.

At best, we hoped that the Palestinian National Authority would be able to defend our case when the military acted with carelessness and disregard to our basic needs. Neither of these hopes have been fulfilled.

During the Oslo implementation negotiations, Shimon Peres said, "We are negotiating with ourselves." Every now and then, we notice that the Israeli military negotiates with itself. They decide to ease the closure here, allow a few workers to enter there and permit Palestinian products to cross the Green Line.

Despite all this, the only real consolation for Palestinians is the knowledge of history: No country, no matter how strong and powerful, can rule over another people forever.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HELPING SURVIVORS

Sir, - We fully agree with your editorial that Holocaust survivors with verifiable claims should receive Swiss compensation first, followed by all other needy survivors ("Ledge of grief," September 4). However, it is important to realize that simply doling out money, even to survivors in desperate financial straits, will not solve many of the problems faced by this population.

The needs of this country's 360,000 survivors include the general health and welfare services required by any aging population. Many are currently unable to afford medically related items, emergency-call systems and placement in old-age homes. But in addition, survivors require special services to address the specific social and psychological needs stemming from their experiences during the war.

The long-suppressed pain and trauma of the loss of loved ones, delayed mourning, lack of burial site or unknown date of death to commemorate, as well as questions about identity, are all issues that often reawaken 50-60 years later and need to be addressed.

While we at Amcha deal only with the psycho-social aspect of caring for Israel's elderly survivors, our involvement with them and the resultant awareness of their needs equips us to advocate, mediate and refer survivors to appropriate social and health agencies to receive the special services they need.

But obviously, this kind of extensive work and responsibility is very costly. That is why we firmly believe that once the survivors are compensated, organizations such as Amcha should be next in line to receive funding.

The survivors must come first - before a single Holocaust museum memorial is built; before any educational programs are planned. Our generation is the only one that will be able to care for those who survived the Holocaust survivors.

We hope and pray we will have the means to do so properly.

JOHN LEMBERGER,
Executive Director,
AMCHA
Jerusalem.

SAVE THE BACKBITING

Sir, - There is an impeccably Orthodox Jewish principle that we accept the truth no matter the source (Maimonides, Introduction Pirkei Avot). In other words, it is the message that is crucial, not the messenger.

It was therefore heartwarming to see juxtaposed two articles from the two extremes of the Jewish religious spectrum - Rosenblum of the Aguda and Rabbi Marmur of the Reform - that so forcefully illustrated the working out of this principle (September 11.)

Rosenblum is convincing in affirming that the prohibition of Jewish outmarriage is not fundamentally racist. Similarly, Marmur is perfectly correct in his disqualification of Rabbi Yosef's denunciation of scientific studies and perversion of the Vilna Gaon and Maimonides' attitude to them.

Would it be too much to expect that both Rabbi Marmur and Rosenblum would accept the validity of each other's arguments? Would, indeed, that this

principle of accepting the truth whatever the source pervade the discussions and decisions of the Israeli rabbinates, saving us from unnecessary controversy and backbiting and allowing for a modus vivendi to be achieved between the respective representatives of the Orthodox, traditional, Reform and secular sectors in Israel and the Diaspora?

ARYEH NEWMAN
Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On September 17, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that 150 *halutzim* left the Berlin Anhalterbahnhof railway station for Palestine. They were given a hearty send-off, but the Palestine Emigration Office announced that they could not consider further requests for certificates until a new schedule was announced.

17, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that salvo after salvo of shells and mortar bombs blasted Jewish Jerusalem when the Arabs launched a sudden and thunderous attack which lasted for about an hour and ended after Israel batteries returned the fire.

25 years ago: On September 17, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported from Amman the

planned arrangements for the transfer to Jordan of 5,000 members of the Palestine Liberation Army from Syria and Egypt. This move had been agreed upon a week earlier at the Arab summit conference in Cairo between King Hussein, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Alexander Zvielli

Hot tips

By DANIELA SCHEINDLIN

Tel Aviv

Newness is in the air as the new year approaches, and what a list! Theater can be peeped at tonight through Saatchi's night. The surreal event, a new kind of communication and exhibition of ship shows. Some intimate performances should be expected. Playing at the Tel Aviv and three nights tonight's premiere, by invitation only, starts at 8 p.m. for people for common people. There will be two showings tomorrow night (9:30 and 12:30) at the establishment end of the world, the Cameri stages one of its never plays tonight.

Weekender

Gershwin the great

A century after his birth, George Gershwin's influence is still felt throughout the music world

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

On September 26, 1898, George Gershwin was born in Brooklyn. And in his life (he died at age 39 in Beverly Hills) he managed to become a modern musical world in a way very few did, before or since.

Gershwin was a pianist, he wrote music for the theater and for the symphony hall, he incorporated jazz rhythms and Negro spirituals into his work and his tunes have become classics. Enter any music store and you will find Gershwin in both the classical music and jazz departments.

Gershwin is probably best known for his opera *Porgy and Bess*, which is a milestone in American history. But there is much more to Gershwin than *Porgy and Bess*. There is Gershwin the songwriter who created some of the greatest American musicals of all time, as well as single hits which have become standard jazz and popular music numbers. Gershwin, however, best remember Gershwin the pianist, since he wrote most of his music for the piano before arranging it for the orchestra.

At times he was also a social critic. Take his musical *Strike Up the Band*, about a war between the Swiss and Switzerland over the price of cheese.

Strike Up the Band was quite different from the average Broadway fare of the period. It was a musical with a social issue, a musical deploring the American inclination to strike and march forward in the glorious name of war.

This was a musical that came out against the American dream, criticizing businessmen who try to make a profit out of anything. So it is perhaps little wonder that after two weeks, the show had to close down.

Strike Up the Band was a musical that was a decade ahead of its time. It did, however, leave us with two of Gershwin's greatest hits, "The Man I Love" and the title song.

The timelessness of his theater work can be illustrated by the musical *Girl Crazy*, a more typical American musical with twisted plots, mistaken identities and a story that is far from believable.

It is a story of boy meets girl, falls in love with her and, after watching trials and tribulations, boy and girl reconcile, marry and live happily ever after.

Not only did the musical produce two memorable songs, "I Got Rhythm" and "Embraceable You," the musical Arizona setting of the musical was in itself a radical departure. Furthermore, most of the basic musical and dramatic material of *Girl Crazy* has been revived in recent years as the basis

for a new adaptation titled *Crazy for You*, which was a hit both on Broadway and London's West End.

But few would argue that his opera, *Porgy and Bess*, was a landmark. It was the first opera depicting the lives of American blacks, spotlighting a significant American minority with its vast musical and social heritage.

The story follows an impossible love affair between the crippled Porgy, and Bess, a woman who is shunned by one and all because of her association with drug dealers and criminals.

Bess is an addict who cannot say no to her daily fix, despite her sincere desire to do so. But as the loving yet poor Porgy simply cannot afford to provide her with what she really wants, at the end of the opera Bess settles for Sportin' Life who yearns for her body, and willingly leaves the slums of Catfish Row on her way to New York.

Porgy and Bess will always be remembered not only for its social significance — it opened the stage doors for many black singers — but also for a number of adorable tunes such as the opening "Summertime," "I Got Plenty o' Nuttin'," "It Ain't Necessarily So," and "I Loves You Porgy," to name just a few.

Even today, in a supposedly more tolerant and democratic world, this sincere and honest work about an oppressed minority still rings true.

Unfortunately Gershwin suggested that, in English-language productions, *Porgy and Bess* should be performed exclusively by blacks. Since his death, his estate has taken this suggestion to ridiculous extremes, thereby limiting the extent of Gershwin's own achievement.

Presumably Gershwin's original rationale was that only blacks could capture the piece's essence, and that white actors might reduce the characters to degrading caricatures. This is absurd. After all if Gershwin, a white Jew, wrote the music, why can't Caucasians perform it?

The Gershwin estate is behaving like a dictatorial organization that has the right to apply a quite inappropriate form of censorship. But as outrageous as this is, it will never succeed in diminishing the greatness of Gershwin, the man who singlehandedly reinvented classical music and introduced jazz to the concert hall.

On a local note, when will a major tribute to Gershwin's work be presented in this country?

While the whole world celebrates the Gershwin centenary, Israel falls short. Could it be that this great Jewish composer is considered beneath our elitist musical tastes? Or is it mere negligence on the part of our classical-music establishment?



Gershwin (seen below with Fred Astaire [left] and brother Ira) wrote most of his work on the piano.



Hot tip

By DAHLIA SCHENDELIN

Tel Aviv

Newness is in the air as the new year approaches, and with it a little voyeurism as well. *Peep Show Theater* can be peeped at tonight through Saturday night.

This surreal event is a new fringe production, created by Yael Robbi, billed by the Fringe as the "theatrical event" that considers issues of communication and exhibitionism, particularly in the context of strip shows. Some intimate settings between audience and performers should be expected!

Playing at the Tzavta all three nights, tonight's premiere, by invitation only, starts at 9; a later performance for common people begins at an uncommon time: midnight.

There will be two showings tomorrow night (9:30 and 12:30) and one on Saturday (9 p.m.).

At the establishment end of the theater world, the Cameri stages one of its newer plays tonight.

Petra, written by Yonatan Gefen, offers a humorous and musical demythologizing of some favorite Israeli hero-type tales. Playing at ZOA House at 8:30.

Musical choices reach far and wide this weekend. Logos in Nahlat Binyamin features Pablo Rosenberg tonight — but don't worry if you can't make it; the show will be broadcast on Radio 3, (03) 516-1176.

Jazz fans head north tonight for New York Jazz Greats at Zahala. Appropos. Arnie Lawrence and his band plays, together with Arele Kaminsky. 1 Avner Zahala, starting at 10.

On Saturday night, get the requisite ethnic music dose at the Enav Center at Gan Ha'ir, with Adraba. They offer a clever (if not entirely unusual) mix of Indian music, Western, Eastern and more. Starting at 9:30.

For the third year in a row, Pitango, the jam and confire producers, will be holding a "Rosh Hashana Garage Sale."

Pitango produces high-quality, all-natural products ranging from mint jellies to jam made of pears and cognac.

For the holidays it is marketing special products, including apple and honey jam, quince and ginger jam and squash and pomegranate marmalade (for Succot) at reduced prices. It will also be selling its more standard fare, such as peach and cinnamon jam and lime marmalade.

In addition, the happening will include the sale of special holiday packages and housewares. All of

Pitango's products are kosher.

The sale is tomorrow and Saturday between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., at 18 Rehovot Hanahar in Ramat Gan, next to Shenkar College. To get there, take the first left after the Halacha Bridge in the direction of Ramat Gan. For details call (03) 562-0125 or (03) 752-1575.

Jerusalem

If you missed the last week's most unusual event, catch it now: Ondukoza does its drumming-and-dancing thing again this weekend, in Jerusalem tonight at the Jerusalem International Convention Center, starting at 8:30.

Refusing to be left out of the pop-music passion, Yellow Submarine presents Ariel Hurvitz tonight, starting at 9:30. Call (02) 656-6611 for details.

For a musical event with visual stimulation — only for truly devoted Nick Cave fans — the Jerusalem Cinematheque presents "Rockcinema with Benny Dudkevitch: Nick Cave." A documentary/clip medley featuring Cave and his Bad Seeds. In Cinematheque 2, tonight at 9:30.

And Points Beyond

The burbs get pop tonight! Dana Berger will be performing at Ramat Hasharon's Sixth Sense Pub, starting at 10. (03) 549-0706.

And if it's up your alley, check out Aviv Gefen — for those who disdain his past, the latest incarnation has an original sound and cer-



The Jerusalem Cinematheque presents video clips of Nick Cave.

tainly an original accompaniment. Tomorrow night at the Ramat Hasharon Yad Lebanim at 10. (03) 540-0551.

Head right back to the Sixth Sense on Saturday night for The Flies, starting at 10.

And lest you think our Japanese guests never make it beyond the big towns, Ondukoza performs tomorrow night at Ein Harod (Amphi Michal) at Har Gilboa. Starting at 9. Saturday night's show, however, might offer just the right setting: at Caesarea, showtime at 9.

During next week's holidays, consider the Bereshit Festival near Kibbutz Ein Shemer, running from Sunday through Tuesday, in honor of Rosh Hashana. This New Age event bills itself as an Earth Healing experience, a Green spiritual gathering, a holistic workshop, meditation center, children's magical garden, etc.

Cultural offerings include a circle of drummers on the 20th, the Diwan band, and shofar blowing. Playing throughout the festival will be Roots of Africa, Habreira Hativit, Sheva and others. Call (06) 623-0676 for more details and directions.

A cozy corner for a drink

By GIVEN ACKERMAN

Looking for a good, neighborhood bar where the bartender is just friendly enough and the music is low enough for intimate conversation?

Your search is over. Down the stairs of the renovated 100-year-old Jerusalem stone building at 54 Rehov Hanavi'im is one of the best-stocked bars in the city. Fifteen bar stools are set around a wooden bar inside with blue glass squares that curve around an underground cubbyhole that used to be a well. At your feet, a glass case displays the cork of every wine bottle uncorked since the bar opened mid-July.

Look up at the ceiling and you can see the opening where Jerusalem's famous rainwater, known as the "well out," says owner Amir Hershkovsky.

Jazz music fills the room, which is painted sky blue. The atmosphere is cozy and pleasant but it is definitely not a place for claustraphobics.

Behind the bar, the veteran drinkmaster Shanan Street who pours out bottles of Jordanian arak, Taybeh beer and Johnny Walker Blue Label. Street pours drinks from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., but closing hours are flexible. Beer goes for NIS 13 to NIS 18 and you can order a plate of labanah with crackers or other snacks for NIS 2.

Real food can be had upstairs, in the complex's kosher dairy and fish restaurant, where the 24-year-old chef, Aviv Moshe, puts out delectable dishes that are arranged with taste. If you prefer the coziness of the bar, however, the restaurant waitresses will bring your meal down.

Classical music plays upstairs, where lighting is low and the colors are green, beige and terracotta. The setting is one of simple elegance.

The peach-colored walls are still here. Fundamentally, the place is a local artists' showcase where work at the complex on a rotating basis.

In the back of the restaurant, set off by a glass wall, is a Wassozky Tea House where one can buy tea flavors such as strawberry or french vanilla by the pound. Its cups, kettles and other various tea-time necessities are also for sale. Holiday packages sold in baskets that include tea, brown sugar cubes, a kettle and two cups go for around NIS 140.

But if you prefer coffee and fresh air, Hanavi'im 54 has an espresso bar outside in a nicely lit, well-landscaped plaza set back from the street. Capris and aesthetic triangular sandwiches — made with white and brown bread, as in England — are nice accompaniment to the cafe au lait.

Light meals such as pasta dishes, as well as beer or wine, can also be had at the espresso bar that is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. — and 2 a.m. daily. Jazz and classical music are the staples.

Overlooking the plaza is a terrace with large windows. Plans are underway to turn the second floor into a 20-room hotel, along the lines of the American Colony Hotel in east Jerusalem.

The idea is to give the employees, to allow clients to begin, continue and end their day in the complex (but not on Shabbat, when it's closed).

Hanavi'im 54, 54 Rehov Hanavi'im, Jerusalem

Blues on my mind

Guitarist Ronnie Peterson talks about his favorite discs

Seven years ago, Ronnie Peterson moved to this country, guitar in hand, and headed straight for a recording studio. Israel was to become the new venue for his blues.

Peterson was four years old when he first picked up a guitar and started playing with his two brothers. By 10, he was often alone in his room, bent over his guitar, listening to B.B. King's *Live and Well* album.

"I proceeded to learn every lick on that record, note for note," Peterson recalls. "I wasn't one of those rock players who cashed in on the blues later in my musical career. For me, it's always been my only option. Blues, man, it cuts across everything."

His education started at the age of 17 "on the chillin' circuit." He spent six years on the road, touring and forming close relationships with some of the greatest names in blues.

By 1987, Peterson was playing "everything and everywhere" in New York. When Shalom Hanoch came to New York looking to recruit "the real sound in authentic musicians," Peterson jumped at the opportunity. He got the gig and spent the next two years in Israel recording and touring with Hanoch.

Israel was an uncharted musical realm for Peterson, and he soon decided to make it his home. He found his audience and has been entertaining in packed halls, music clubs and bars ever since.

In June of this year Peterson recorded two albums. The first one, *Pass It On*, is a studio recording of his own music which he sells at his performances around the world.

The second album, *Ronnie Peterson and Friends*, is available in regular disc stores. It is the realization of a 10-year-old dream to record an album with 10 artists. Peterson teamed up with the likes of Rami Kleinstein, Aviv Gefen and Ahinoam Nini and rearranged their music in blues style.

When Peterson's not writing or performing the blues, he's listening to it. Here he talks about five of his favorite albums.

1. *Blues is King* by B.B. King
"This is one of his rarest albums. It was recorded live in some Chicago blues club in 1966, and it is just raw, stripped-down B.B. King. I've never heard him sing like this. He's ferocious. He eats you alive."



2. *Albert King - The Ultimate Collection*

"Albert influenced many of the great blues musicians, such as Stevie Ray Vaughn, Clapton and Hendrix. He was more aggressive and funkier than anyone in his business. I mean, he used to tune his guitar upside-down so he could bend his high E-string to the floor. He would wail. Nobody played like that before, but many did after."

3. *Hide Away - The Best of Freddie King*

"Many of the instrumental tunes on this album are the ones which made Freddie famous. He was the hardest hitting of all the three Kings, with his monster vocals and sharp stinging leads. He was always down in the dirt, just laying the groundwork for the rest."

4. *Live at the Fillmore East* by The Allman Brothers Band

"Certain albums out there don't speak to me. You've got to suffer to play the blues convincingly, and these guys didn't have one easy day. It comes across in their music. The first side of this album, the blues side, is so improvised that it grooves hard. There's no American band like the Allmans."

5. *John Mayall and the Blues Breakers, with Eric Clapton*

"Eric really stands out on this album. It was recorded after his career with the Yardbirds and before Cream. Many say he never played like this again. He plugged his Les-Paul straight into a Marshall amp and played like a demon. He was a big influence on me, and this is his finest work."

— Ari Leitchberg

Weekender Food & Drink

The American plate – California story

Decades in the making, the Golden State's bold and bountiful cuisine has become one of the world's finest. It has changed the way all of us eat – for the better. By Nancy Spiller and Jeanne Jones

Maybe it was the day I spent soaring in a hot-air balloon over the silver-gray fields of Castroville. Maybe it was a meal in a Napa restaurant, with salad greens picked that morning from a nearby field and a glass of Stag's Leap Cabernet Sauvignon that tasted unmistakably of the valley's iron-rich volcanic soil.

Or maybe it's just been a lifetime of savoring all the bounty of my native state. Somewhere along the way, I've come to believe that California, like Tuscany and Provence before it, is well on its way to cultivating one of the world's finest regional cuisines.

For more than 25 years now, California cuisine has been evolving and gaining a reputation, so much so that the term itself has sometimes invited parody. In the Steve Martin film *L.A. Story*, the diners at a trendy outdoor cafe are asked what they're having for lunch. They reply in unison: "California cuisine."

But beneath the parody – and related notions that California cuisine is pink tofu in a sushi roll – lies the reality of what has become one of the most influential food movements in the US this century. Then what exactly is it?

Short answer: An emphasis on fresh, locally grown produce with a decided preference for vegetables, fruits, and grains over meat and fat, and a passion for co-opting multicultural influences.

But there's also an expanded definition that's as rich, complex, and evocative as the state itself. Primarily stemming from a Mediterranean sensibility, California cuisine is a healthy obsession with the quality of what you eat on a daily basis. It's refusing to accept wilted iceberg lettuce or tasteless tomatoes. It's planning menus around what looks best that day and season, in the market or the garden, and keeping an eye peeled for spring asparagus and tava beans, summer strawberries and corn, fall persimmons and winter beets.

"It says this is what something tastes like when it's fresh. It raises the standards for everyone; it influences the national palate," contends Bill Bradley, chef de cuisine at the Culinary Institute of America's Wine Spectator Greystone Restaurant in Napa. "It's using what's raised here. It's cooking out your back door. It's creating lively flavors without relying on cream and butter."

The state's favorable climate means California cooks get to work with more fresh materials than can be found in many other areas. California is America's primary supplier of, among other things, almonds, artichokes, avocados, grapes, kiwi, olives, prunes, raisins, and walnuts.

The political turmoil and cultural revolution of the '60s and early '70s were in many ways centered in the San Francisco area. Food was no exception.

Alice Waters, a University of California-Berkeley student who'd studied in France, opened Chez Panisse in 1971. Her five-course prix-fixe dinners based on the freshest local ingredients available that day heralded a new era in eating and became what many still consider the cradle of California cuisine. Food was to finally get the respect it deserved.

At around the same time, Joe Carbone, a first-generation California-Italian known on local television and radio as the Greengrocer, gave daily lessons to Northern California home cooks on what was good in the supermarket's produce section. He urged them to buy local, seasonal fruits and vegetables. He insisted that appearances were less important than flavor and if the tangerines or tomatoes lacked it – "Take 'em back!"

In the '70s and '80s, California's food evolution shifted toward Los Angeles and, predictably, became a scene. The catalyst was Austrian-born and French-trained Wolfgang Puck, whose restaurant *Ma Maison* captured Hollywood's folkie fancy and trendy appetite.

Prior to that, Los Angeles food had taken a back seat to the rest of the ride. Restaurants were

shaped like derby hats, and the height of elegant dining was Chasen's, famous for its chicken potpies and chili. When Puck opened Spago in 1982, just off the Sunset Strip and within limo distance of all the major studios, he terminated an era. Spago's bold, open kitchen provided the live equivalent of a giant-screen television for the dining room, and no one doubted who was star of the show. The celebrity chef was born.

California cuisine is clearly a state of mind as well as mouth. Let Bill Gates ask where you want to go today; Californians will continue to ask the more vital and immediate question: What do you want to eat today?

GRILLED-SEA BASS TACOS WITH FRESH-PEACH SALSA
Sea bass is abundant in California coastal waters, but any firm white fish such as halibut, grouper or snapper will work.

for the peach salsa:
3 cups coarsely chopped, peeled peaches (about 6 small peaches)

1 cup diced red onion
1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
2 Tbsp. minced fresh coriander
2 Tbsp. minced shallots
1 tsp. chopped, seeded serrano chili
1 tsp. honey
1/4 tsp. salt

for the grilled sea bass:
450 gr. sea bass fillet (about 5 cm. thick)
cooking spray
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. black pepper

for the tacos:
8 taco shells
2 cups shredded green cabbage
1/2 cup minced fresh coriander

Combine ingredients for peach salsa in a bowl and toss gently.

Prepare grill. Place fish on grill rack coated with cooking spray; grill 6 minutes on each side or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork. Sprinkle fish with 1/4 tsp. salt and pepper.

Warm the taco shells according to package directions.
Cut the fish into 8 pieces and place 1 piece of fish in each taco shell. Top each taco with 1/4 cup peach salsa, 1/4 cup shredded cabbage and 1 Tbsp. coriander. (Serves 4.)

CALIFORNIA TABOULI IN AN ARTICHOKE BOWL
Two of California's great crops – artichokes and garlic – come together in this fresh vegetarian dish.

4 large artichokes
2 garlic cloves, halved
3 lemon slices
1/2 cup uncooked bulgur or cracked wheat
1 cup boiling water
2 cups diced tomato
1/2 cup chopped green onions
1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
1/4 cup chopped fresh mint
1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
2 Tbsp. sliced ripe olives
1 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. black pepper
2 garlic cloves, minced

Cut off stem from each artichoke, remove bottom leaves and discard. Trim about 1 cm. from top of each artichoke. Place artichokes, stem ends down, in a large pot filled two-thirds with water.

Add the garlic halves and lemon slices to pot and bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat and simmer 40 minutes or until a leaf near the center of each artichoke pulls out easily. Remove artichokes from pan and discard cooking liquid, garlic and lemon. Remove center leaves and furry thistles with a spoon and discard. Set artichokes aside.

Combine the bulgur and boiling water in a medium-sized bowl. Cover and let stand for 45 minutes. Drain.

Combine the bulgur, tomato and remaining ingredients in a large bowl.

Spoon 1 cup tabouli into center of each artichoke. (Serves 4.)



GAZPACHO WITH AVOCADO AND CUMIN CHIPS

1 1/2 cups Bloody Mary mix
1 1/2 cups finely diced tomato
1 cup finely diced yellow bell pepper
1/4 cup chopped, seeded, peeled cucumber
1/4 cup finely diced red onion
2 Tbsp. fresh lime juice
1 tsp. red wine vinegar
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1/4 cup vegetable juice, such as V-8
1/2 cup tomato juice
1/4 cup diced, peeled avocado
1/4 cup chopped green onions
cumin chips (recipe below)

Combine the first 12 ingredients in a large non-aluminum bowl. Cover and chill.

Serve with avocado, green onions and cumin chips. (Serves 6.)

CUMIN CHIPS

4 tortillas, each cut into 6 wedges
cooking spray
1/2 tsp. ground cumin

Preheat oven to 175°. Place tortilla wedges on a large baking sheet. Lightly coat wedges with cooking spray and sprinkle with cumin. Bake at 175° for 10 minutes or until chips are lightly browned and crisp. (Makes 2 dozen.)

FLANK-STEAK FAJITAS WITH SPICY GARDEN VEGETABLES

for the marinade:
1/2 cup minced fresh coriander
1/2 cup fresh lime or lemon juice
1/2 cup water
4 tsp. dried oregano
1 Tbsp. ground cumin
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. black pepper
1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper
5 garlic cloves, minced

for the fajitas:
1 cup vertically sliced onion
450 gr. flank steak, cut into strips
cooking spray
1 cup red bell pepper strips
1 cup julienne-cut yellow squash
1 cup julienne-cut zucchini
1 cup fresh corn kernels (about 2

ears)
6 tortillas
2 cups chopped tomato
2 Tbsp. sour cream (optional)

Combine the marinade ingredients in a small bowl.

Combine 1/2 cup marinade, onion and steak in a large zip-top plastic bag and seal. Marinate in refrigerator 1 hour, turning occasionally. Remove steak mixture from bag; discard marinade.

Place a large nonstick skillet coated with cooking spray over medium-high heat until hot. Add the steak mixture and stir-fry 5 minutes. Place the steak mixture in a large bowl and keep warm.

Add bell pepper, squash, zucchini, corn and remaining marinade to skillet; stir-fry 5 minutes or until vegetables are crisp-tender. Add to steak mixture and toss gently.

Warm tortillas according to package directions. Arrange 1 cup steak mixture, 1/2 cup tomato and, if desired, 1 tsp. sour cream down center of each tortilla and roll up. (Serves 6.)

BANANA-DATE CREME BRULEE

1 cup whole pitted dates
1 cup evaporated milk
1/4 cup sliced ripe banana
1/2 cup low-fat milk
2 Tbsp. sugar
2 tsp. vanilla extract
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
1/4 tsp. salt
2 large eggs
2 large egg whites
cooking spray
1 Tbsp. sugar

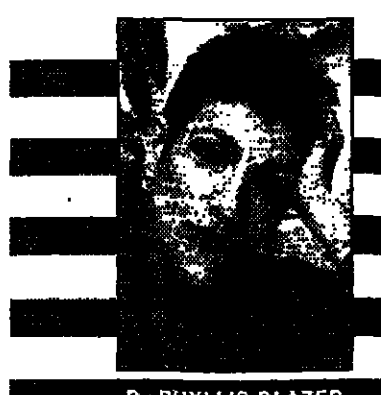
Preheat oven to 150°.

Combine the first 8 ingredients in a blender and process the mixture until smooth (about 2 minutes). Add the eggs and egg whites to blender and process just until smooth.

Divide the mixture evenly among 6 180 ml. ramekins or custard cups coated with cooking spray. Place ramekins in a 33 cm. x 23 cm. baking pan and add hot water to pan to a depth of 2.5 cm.

Bake at 150° for 55 minutes or until a knife inserted in center comes out clean. Remove ramekins from pan and sprinkle each with 1/4 tsp. sugar.

Preheat broiler. Place the ramekins on a jelly-roll pan and broil the custards for 3 minutes or until the sugar melts. (Serves 6.) (Creators Syndicate)



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Phyllis's Tips

more so if it is not done correctly. Whatever medicinal qualities honey has are usually reduced by heating. But those medicinal qualities are very small in the first place."

Wine for the holidays

If you wondered which wines to serve with your holiday dinner, the Barkan Winery just provided me with a list created by Ed Zalsberg, its head winemaker. If you follow the list to the letter, with a different wine to accompany each course, you had better get some friends to drive you home or provide drivers for your friends. But it is a guideline to choosing appropriate wines as well.

I don't understand why it refers only to Ashkenazi foods though.

- kiddush – sweet red wine
- apple and honey – half-dry white wine like emerald riesling
- fish or gefilte fish – dry white wine such as sauvignon blanc
- chicken soup with kneidlach or kreplach – chardonnay
- rice side dish – dry red wine
- grilled chicken with honey – dry red wine
- tzimmes – dry red wine
- honey cake, torte – chocolate liqueur

Osem gift package (avoid)

During this Rosh Hashana season, Osem is offering a 400-gr. container of Gold Chicken Soup powder together with a spiral-bound cookbook containing recipes for the holiday utilizing the powder and many blank pages on which you can add your own recipes. The idea is cute, it's just too bad that it comes with a soup powder that is mostly salt, sugar, monosodium glutamate, and various artificial additives mixed with ground chicken meat and skin.

Although most Israeli housewives have come to think of this chemical cocktail as a seasoning, it has none of the integrity or health-giving properties of herbs and spices. Why not start

off a healthy New Year with a meal solely of natural ingredients? NIS 23.50 for a gift package of "real" chicken soup. NIS 15.65 for a gift package of chicken-flavored soup.

Another Osem gift package (avoid)

Another Osem gift package available during the holidays is two of its Habayit cakes together with four dessert forks manufactured by Michsaf, the Kibbutz Nir Am factory. The cakes available are marbled chocolate chip and honey.

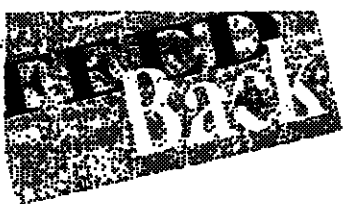
I'm not a great fan of these cakes to say the least; they contain emulsifiers, stabilizers, artificial flavors and preservatives. If you need to buy a cake for the holidays, instead of baking one yourself, I'd suggest patronizing your local or favorite bakery where they make fresh cakes. But if you do like the cakes, this is a nice present at NIS 24.35.

Holiday chocolates (avoid)

Most people like a gift of chocolates for the holidays, and of the evils, I think chocolate is a necessary one. I have fond memories of Nestlé's chocolates while growing up in America. I had a special weakness for Nestlé's Crunch, and while it doesn't taste quite the same to me today, it still is pretty good.

In Israel, Osem-Nestlé imports both Nestlé and Frigor Swiss chocolates, and for the holidays is offering an oversized 400-gr. bar of Nestlé Classic with a festive cover (NIS 14.95), 100-gr. Frigor bars in milk chocolate, bittersweet and nougat for NIS 6.95, and a few other offerings (check your supermarket).

The best offer is the gift packages for kids – they contain chocolate figurines shaped like Disney characters from *The Jungle Book*, *101 Dalmatians*, *Snow White* and *Winnie the Pooh* and the kids will absolutely adore them. NIS 9.75-22.35, depending on size.



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

I recently brought back from the US Peter D'Adamo's book on the interaction between foods and body chemistry, *Eat Right for Your Blood Type*. My GP laughed the idea out of his office; however, I am prepared to risk submitting to my own personal test. D'Adamo refers to spelt, for which I cannot find an adequate Hebrew translation, and "Essene and Ezekiel" breads, which mean nothing to me.

Spelt is a kind of grain that you will have a lot of trouble finding here, unless you go back in a time machine. As far as I know, "Essene" and "Ezekiel" breads are the same thing. Below is a recipe for Essene bread, which contains no yeast or flour. Good luck!

ESSENE BREAD

800 gr. sprouted wheatberries
1/4 cup mashed dates
1-2 Tbsp. water

Mix sprouted wheatberries with

mashed dates and water. Grind in a food processor, oil hands and form a loaf. Set aside for 1 hour to rest. Place on an oiled cookie sheet (or on parchment paper) and bake in a preheated 140°C oven for two and a half hours. Let cool and wrap in nylon wrap. Refrigerate for two days before cutting.

I am interested in buying one of your cookbooks in English. Have they been published in Israel in English? I cannot find them in the stores. (I can only find them in Hebrew.)

– Eva Ben-Yehuda, Tel Aviv

Unfortunately, my cookbooks only have been published in Hebrew, German and Italian.

Cilantro is a Spanish corruption of coriander, so they are the same word and there really is no distinction between the two. *Kuzbara* is Arabic, not Hebrew. The Hebrew word for coriander is *gad*.

On another subject, I have often seen that recipes from foreign sources contain ingredients like Jalapeno peppers. As far as I have been able to see, supermarkets, markets and presumably growers do not distinguish one pepper from another. There is *pipel harif* and *pipel matok*, period. You would do a great service if you could utilize some channel to the marketplace to

introduce more detailed labeling. The differences are not trivial. I would very much like to buy identifiable Jalapeno, Ancho and Serrano chilis.

– Stan Goodman, Kiryat Tivon

I did not say that *cilantro* and coriander were different. I said that they are different names for the same green herb. The term *cilantro* generally is used on the West Coast of the US and in recipes emanating from there. The terms coriander and Chinese parsley are used on the East Coast of the US and in recipes emanating from there.

It is true that coriander is called *gad* in Hebrew, but that name is not in common use. If you ask for *gad* at the greengrocers, there's a good chance no one will know what you're talking about.

To buy unusual chili peppers, I'd suggest you contact the Chichimanga restaurant in Tel Aviv (03-561-3232). The restaurant sells chili peppers to the public.

Phyllis Glazer can be contacted c/o The Jerusalem Post Magazine, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem, 91000, or by phyllisglazer@post.co.il.

Do not send stamped, self-addressed envelopes, as inquiries cannot be answered individually. Feedback also appears in The Jerusalem Magazine on Friday.

Wine Cellar

Juice cocktails

By NOGA TARNOPOLSKY

Remember Tom Cruise's acrobatic, joyfully exhibitionistic portrayal of a barman in the 1988 film *Cocktail*? I think a generation of boys whose adolescence was marked by the movie grew up believing they'd never be able to seduce a woman by offering her a simple glass of white wine or an almost-as-simple screwdriver. Of course, that's all nonsense. What could be finer than a simple but perfect glass of champagne? The combination of refreshing fruit juices, ice and usually well-hidden alcohol is enticing beyond telling when the weather is hot.

In honor of Prigat's new series of pulpy, pleasant and refreshing juices and nectars called Scharati, Israel's very own acrobatic cocktail-maker, Barry the Barman, developed the following recipes for fruit-juice cocktails.

FROZEN LEMON MARGARITA

two handfuls ice
1/4 large wine cup of tequila
1/4 cup caramel liqueur
2 large wine glasses fresh lemonade
1/2 cup fresh-squeezed pink grapefruit juice
8-9 slices of lemon
1/2 cm. salt on a plate

Place wine glasses in a plastic bag in freezer. In a blender place the ice, tequila, caramel

liqueur, lemonade, pink grapefruit juice, and slices of lemon (seeds removed). Pulse the blender on and off for about 30 seconds until the mixture acquires a homogeneous color. The margarita should have the texture of shaved ice.

Remove the glasses from the freezer, dip the edges with a slice of lemon, dip the edges of the glasses in the salt, and fill the glasses with the margarita mix until they are about 2/3 full. If you wish, add lemonade to fill the glass. Garnish with lemon slices. (Serves 2.)

MANGO COLADA

1 large handful ice
1 large wineglass pina-colada mix
1 large wineglass white rum
1/4 cup mango nectar
1/4 cup fresh lemonade
ground cinnamon
whipped cream

In a blender, place ice, pina-colada mix, rum, mango nectar and lemonade. Pulse the blender on and off for about 20 seconds.

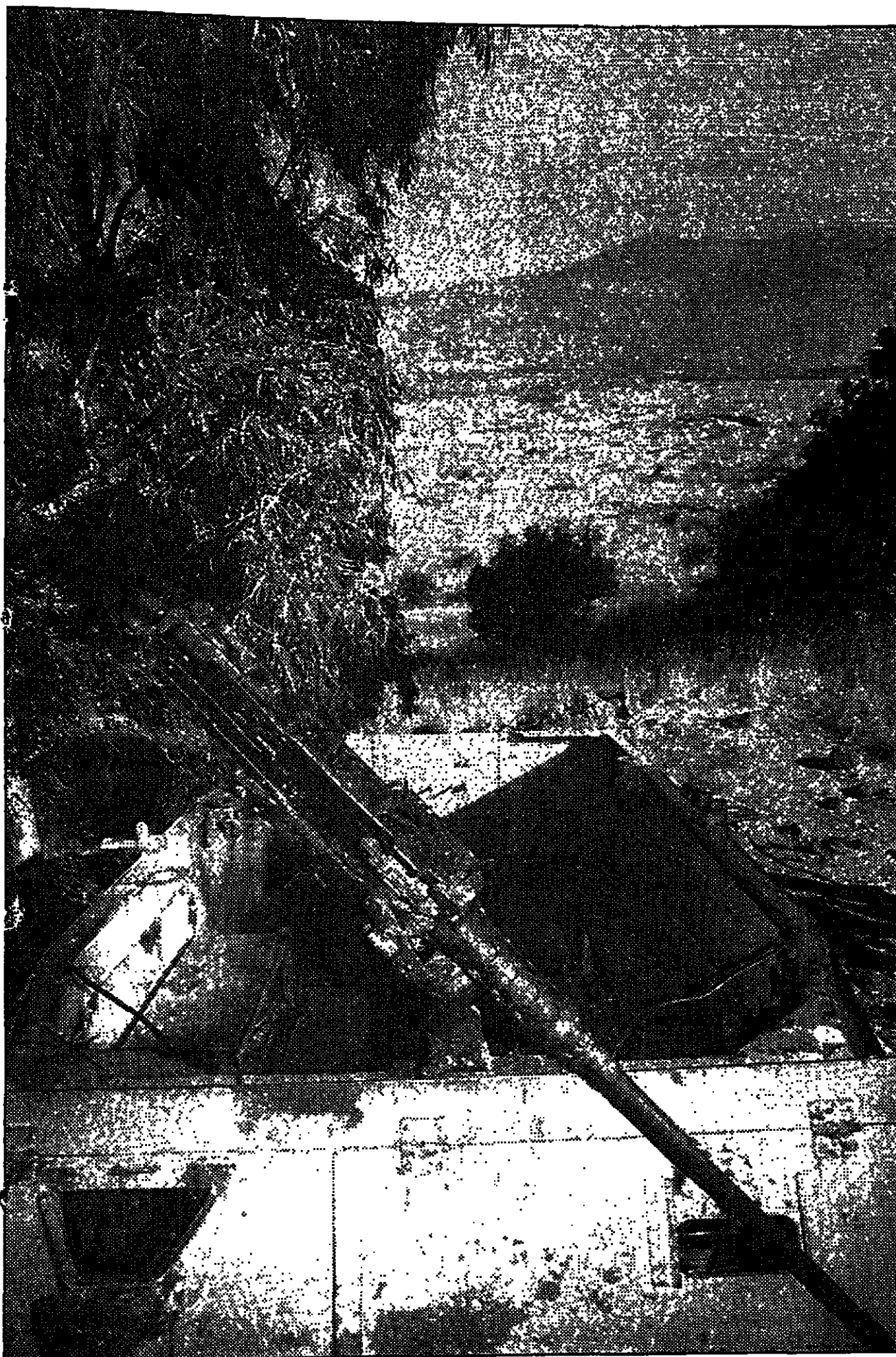
Fill the hollow-stemmed pina-colada glasses to the half-way mark with ice, add mango nectar syrup to fill the base of the cup, and pour the mixture into the cup, so that it floats atop the pineapple. Finally, in a circular motion, place some whipped cream on top of the cocktail. (Serves 2.)

سكنات الاصل

Tel Fahir: The wrest is history

Close Encounters
By Allan Rabinowitz

Weekender Travel



The intensity of the carnage that exploded at Tel Fahir during the Six Day War leaps almost involuntarily before your eyes as you scan the slopes, the live minefields beyond the fences, the rusting military equipment and the bulwarks and tunnels around you.

(Photos: Sarit Uziel)

The Golan Heights contains, unfortunately, more than its share of stark war memorials, from both the 1967 Six Day War and the 1973 Yom Kippur War. At Tel Fahir it is especially possible to feel, in an uncanny and chilling way, the incredible sacrifice and struggle it took during the Six Day War to wrest these heights from Syria.

It is a small battlefield; the Israeli losses in numerical terms were "light," and the Syrian force was decimated. But it is the intensity of the carnage that exploded here, rather than its immensity, that leaps almost involuntarily before your eyes as you scan the slopes, the live minefields beyond the fences and the bulwarks and tunnels around you — all of which remain exactly as they were at the time of battle.

Reached by a narrow rutted road that turns south off the main road between Banias and Tel Dan, Tel Fahir was part of Syria's forward-most position in the northern sector of the Golan Heights. This network of trenches and tunnels, reinforced with concrete and girders and surrounded by minefields, extended like a long bony finger from Syria's Golan plateau, above Israel's northern Hula Valley.

The Syrians had constructed a 15-kilometer thick, long, deep labyrinth of trenches, bunkers, tunnels and pillboxes, criss-crossing fortifications, immovable tanks, and carefully screened artillery and armor.

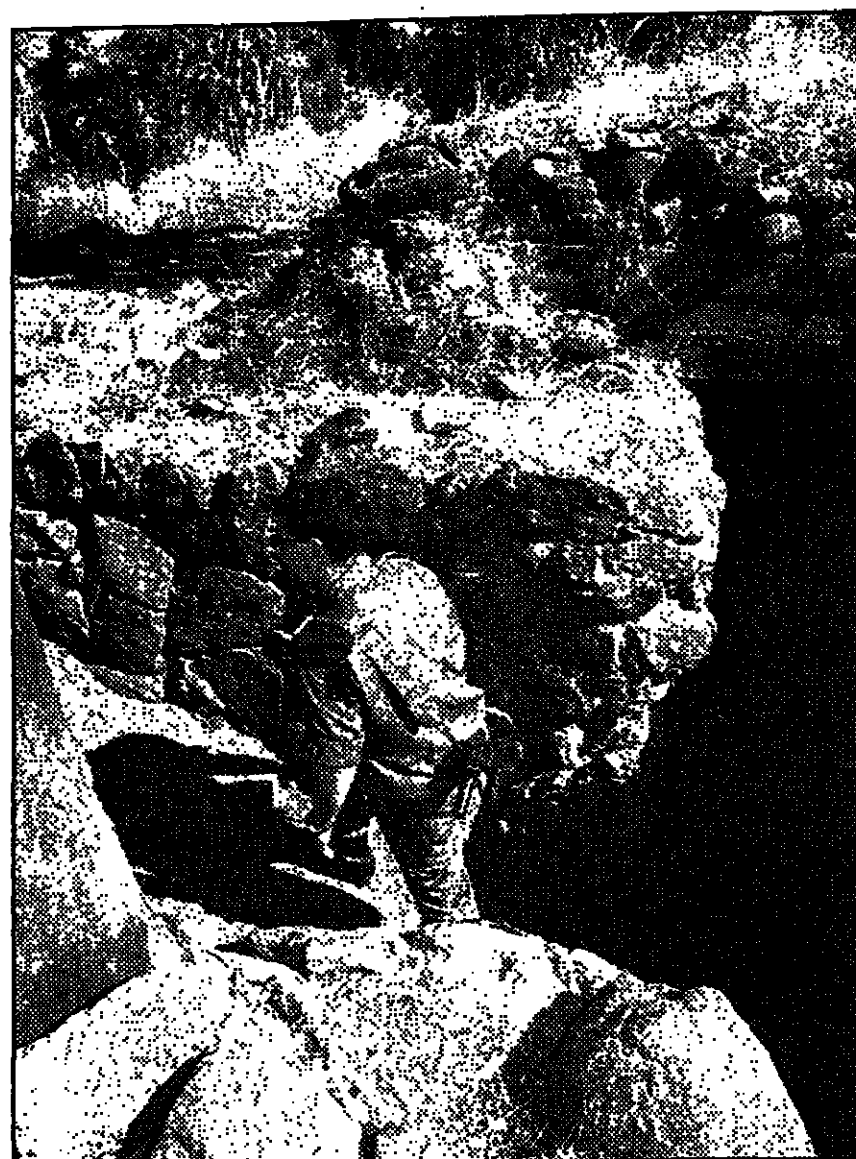
Gazing down at the farm buildings and fields of the Hula Valley, it is easy to grasp Syria's tremendous tactical and topographical advantage. That massive line was far more than a defensive bulwark.

Bombardment of the farming settlements below was a constant hazard from 1948 on, but was greatly intensified after 1965. The regular shelling, known as "Syrian rainfall," forced settlers to spend many days and nights in bomb shelters. The heights also formed a launching pad for any assaults on the vulnerable valley and the precious Sea of Galilee. Any successful Syrian thrust down from the Golan Heights would open all of northern Israel to disaster.

Starting from this vantage point at the valley below, it is easy to grasp the scale of the Syrian threat toward Israel at the start of the Six Day War. But it is hard to comprehend what happened next, when, after stunning victories on other fronts, and after numerous appeals from Galilee residents, the Israeli government decided the moment of retribution had come.

The operation required strategic surprise and boldness, and included a risky attack on the best fortified sector of the Golan Heights — an arrow-shaped ridge so angular and boulder-studded, so buffered with barbed-wire and minefields, that 200 well dug-in men could control the area.

Due to a directional miscalculation made under intense fire, a unit from the elite Golan Brigade attacked Tel Fahir not up the flanks, as intended, but directly up a frontal slope. You can almost see them, at high noon under a glaring June sun, crawling and clawing up the steep, rocky, mine-laced slopes, through blistering fusillades and into the teeth of the Syrian strongpoints dug in at 300 meters and 500



The Syrians had constructed a 15-kilometer thick, long, deep labyrinth of trenches, bunkers, tunnels and pillboxes, criss-crossing fortifications, immovable tanks, and carefully screened artillery and armor.

meters above the attacking forces. (The Syrians suffered their own bombardment from Israeli warplanes which had won absolute control of the skies.)

Two waves of Israeli infantry, trying to knock out dug-in tanks by getting close enough to drop grenades in, inched forward but were stopped. Finally a third wave reached the southern-most entrenchments. Among these trenches where you stand, under the shade of the eucalyptus trees, the battle reverted to a primitive struggle of rifle butts, bayonets and fists.

The Israeli breakthrough here and at other points revealed the thick Syrian bulwarks to be as brittle and inflexible as they were threatening. Once the Syrian defense complex was pierced and endangered from behind, it collapsed and was abandoned. The scourge of arbitrary bombardment against Israeli farm settlements and water sources had been ended.

Thirty-four Israelis died in the frontal attack, including all the top-ranking officers, and a majority of the men sustained wounds. Few Syrians survived.

THE EUCALYPTUS trees which clearly marked the Syrian positions, have their own story.

Eli Cohen, the Israeli spy who had become close to the upper echelons of the Syrian government, managed to wrangle a visit to this closed Syrian military zone on the Golan Heights, and suggested that trees be planted in the general area to provide shade for the Syrian soldiers. Syria's Soviet military advisors altered the idea and recommended that the trees shade the outposts themselves, thus creating the equivalent of blinking neon signs that said "Shoot here."

Cohen, who in 1965 was captured, tortured, tried and publicly hung in Damascus, gazed down from these same ridgetops during his inspection tour, and relayed coordinates and details that provided inestimable help to the Israeli army in 1967.

He wrote later that, as he gazed across the bristling border, so near yet so distant and isolated from his beloved country, he felt like "a lighthouse desperately passing its warning signals through the night... to save the ship called Israel from the dangers that were threatening it."

Allan Rabinowitz is a licensed tour guide. He can be reached at Allan@jpost.co.il

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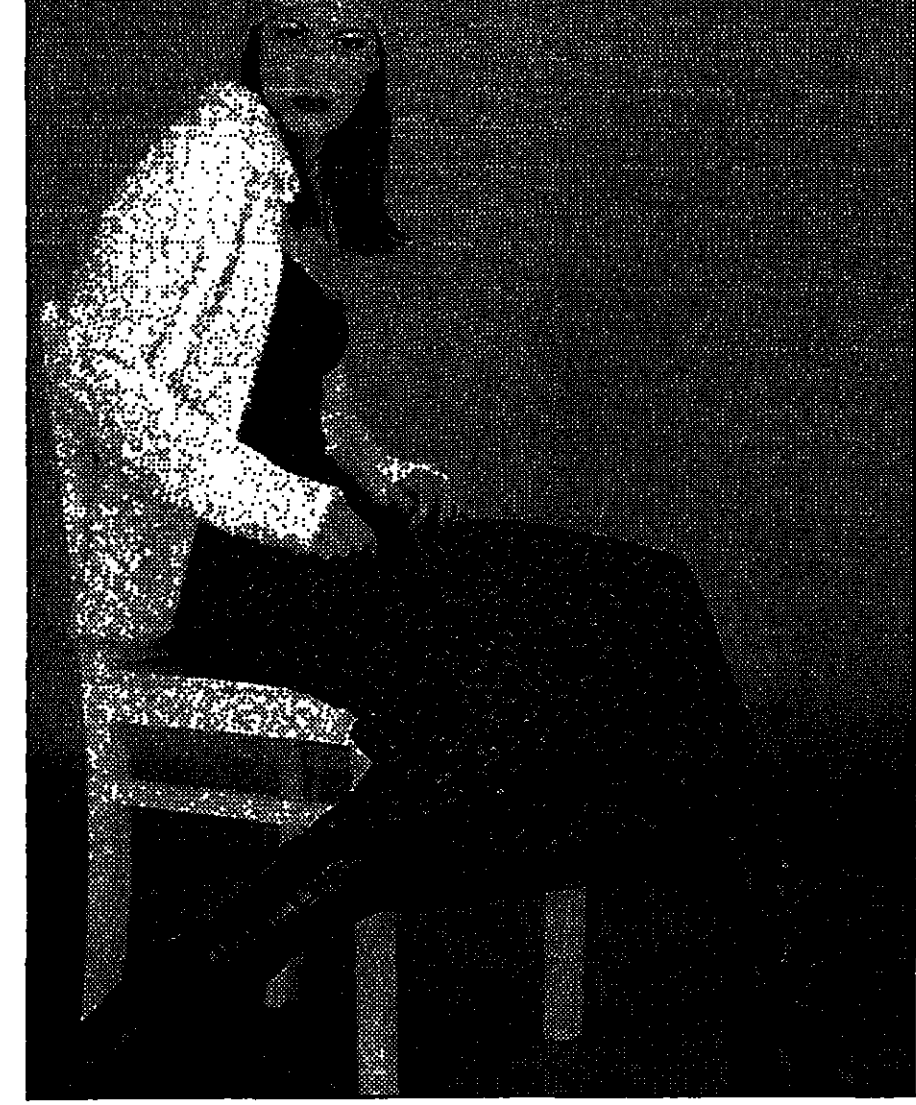
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Weekender Leisure



Mom's closet makes a comeback

If you're somewhere between 30 and 40, the new season's clothes that have just begun to grace the store windows look familiar—but not because you've worn them in their previous incarnations.

These were the styles worn by your mothers and grandmothers when you were young.

Some of your most sentimental memories may include images of your mother in a crocheted cardigan or in a close-fitting, totally unembellished princess-line dress.

Or maybe it's the Lurex top that sticks in your memory because in its earlier romp to glory, Lurex was a special-occasion fabric.

Then again, if you're 50-something, these were the clothes that graced your own closet as well as your mother's. These were the things you could safely borrow from her, precisely because of their minimalism and their lack of a generational distinction. These were clothes for women of all ages (though, sadly, not of all proportions).

AT THE unveiling of its fall/winter collection, Castro made it clear that this is a slim girls' season. Forget about the camouflage tunics, the tent dresses and the oversize jackets. The silhouette is about as slender as you can get without being skinnier.

The soft, tailored, lean look is so pared down that blouses are deliberately cut too tight to button down all the way, creating the impression that

even a milligram of excess weight is way too much.

Retrieved from the mothballs of fashion history are ribbed sweaters with high turtle-necks; poodle-knit zip-fronted cardigans with large collars; quilted jackets with wide, waist-defining belts; drawstring pants and skirts; slinky skirts and dresses fanning out slightly below the hip, Teddy-boy jackets and wrap-around tops.

In general, they're being worn with sexy, romantic shoes with thin, sometimes spiky heels and ankle straps. Skirt lengths are definitely moving down, hovering mostly between knee and mid-calf.

The occasional mini slips through in deference to women who absolutely must show their legs, but the longer length is flattering even to those women well endowed in the lower extremities.

Colors are muted. Black is a must. Maroon and shades of brown and gray dominate the palette.

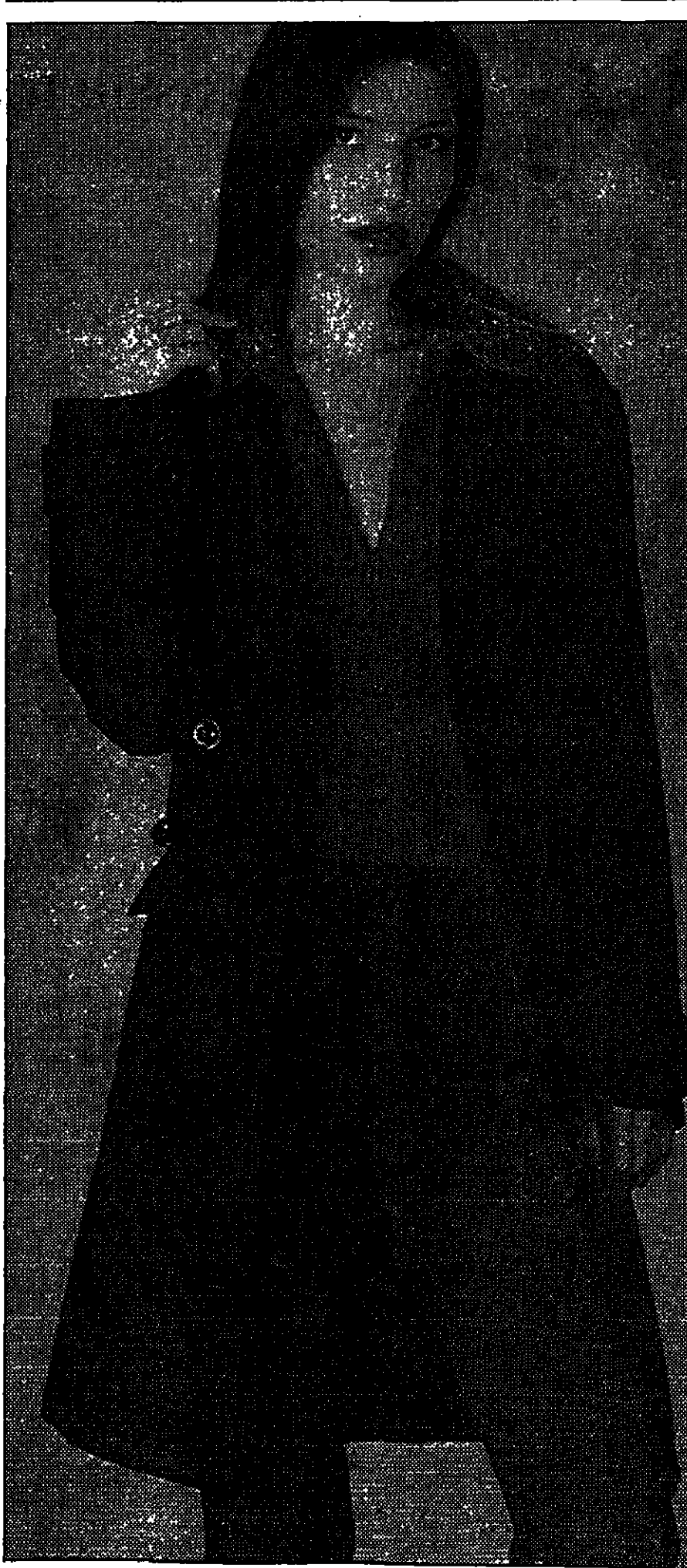
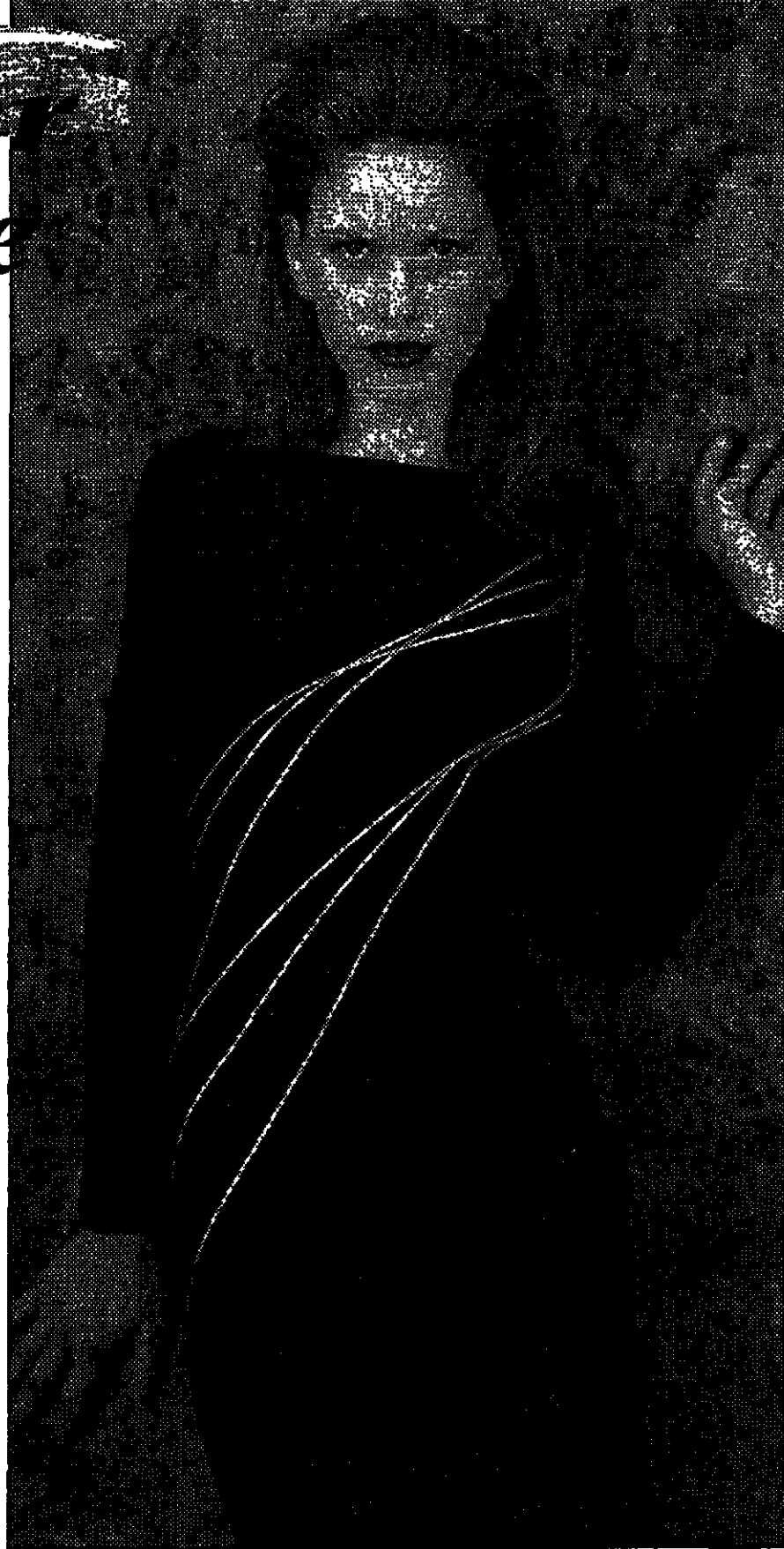
The show was more interesting than most fashion shows because models recreated the poses they'd been photographed in for the Castro catalog.

As a result, there was hardly any catwalk strutting. It was nearly all sitting and sprawling on sofas, chairs and benches with photographers letting their motor drives run like crazy.

Anyone in the audience who didn't know what it takes to do a fashion shoot, left with a new appreciation of that experience.



It's slim girls' season: This two-piece suit exemplifies the soft, tailored, lean look that characterizes Castro's winter collection.



Castro draws from the mothballs of fashion history: (from top left) poodle-knit, zip-fronted cardigans; close-fitting, princess-line dresses; and Teddy-boy jackets.

Bridge Why me?

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

West dealer
Both sides vulnerable

North (Berkowitz)
♠ A K 10 8 3
♥ 9 8 7 3
♦ 10 8 7 5
♣ -

West East
♠ Q 6 5 ♠ J 4 2
♥ K Q 10 2 ♥ A 5 4
♦ Q J 4 2 ♦ 9
♣ A J ♣ 9 7 6 5 4

South (Cohen)
♠ 9 7
♥ J 6
♦ A K 6 3
♣ K 10 8 3 2

West North East South
1 NT pass 2 ♣ (1) pass
2 NT pass 3 ♣ pass
pass double redouble 3 ♣
double (all pass)

(1) artificial, invited 3NT with a either a balanced hand or a club suit.

Opening lead: ♥K

My friend, Larry Cohen, of Florida, a man who used to believe that bridge is purely a game of science, has lately been asking himself, "Why me?"

This past March he lost in the final of the US Vanderbilt teams. In June he lost in the final of the US Team Trials and last month he lost in World Olympiad Pairs, in Lille, France, on the very last round of the tournament.

He still received the silver medal for second place, with his partner David Berkowitz, but nevertheless they were leading the tournament with only two hands to go.

Then disaster struck. Cohen sat South and heard his opponents bid one notrump on his left and two spades on his right. The two-spade bid was artificial, showing a hand that invited game with either a balanced hand or a club suit.

When East next bid three clubs, he clarified his hand as a one-suiter in clubs. Cohen was pleased to defend three clubs with his five-card holding and even more pleased when his part-

ner reopened the bidding with a takeout double.

He was planning to pass the double. And visions of a gold medal appeared before his eyes.

But then his gold medal flew away on wings as East said "redouble." At this point Cohen would have been thrilled to pass (if his partner would pass as well), but he had an agreement with partner that the pass of a redouble is forcing, asking partner to bid his best suit.

Since he didn't want to hear North bid spades or hearts, Cohen bid three diamonds, and West doubled. West led the king of hearts and then a heart to East's ace. East shifted to a trump, and Cohen couldn't handle the hand. He was one trick short, and the result was minus 200, for a bottom.

"Why me?" asked Cohen afterwards. "Why are these things happening to me? Did I accidentally step on a rabbi's foot as I walked through the room?"

There's no answer, but it reminded me of one of my favorite stories by Damon Runyon entitled "Why Me?"

In this short story, Runyon begins, "When physical calamity befalls, the toughest thing for the victim to overcome is the feeling of resentment that it happened to him. 'Why me?' he keeps asking himself."

Runyon then goes on to discuss the story of Job, in which the Lord praises Job to Satan, who challenges Him.

"There is no one like Job," remarked the Lord to Satan. "He is a perfect and upright man. He fears the Lord and eschews evil."

"Well, why not?" said Satan. "You have fixed him up so he is sitting pretty in every way. But you just let a spell of bad luck hit him and see what happens. He will curse you to your face."

So the Lord tests Job, allowing Satan to take away all his possessions, his children, and finally his good health as well. But in the end Job passes the test and is still a faithful servant of the Lord.

Runyon ends his story, suggesting there are things beyond our understanding, and so it is useless to ask, "Why me?"

Readers may contact Matthew Granovetter by e-mail at gran@nervision.net.il

Chess Tooting his own horn

By NIGEL SHORT

I was 16 years old when an article entitled "Is Nigel Short a has-been?" appeared in Chess magazine. I should have got used to being written off by now, but I haven't. And it still makes me angry.

I had foreseen that my days as England's opening bat were numbered when I lost to Michael Adams in a blitz game at last year's world championship. Indeed, Mickey was recently confirmed as our top board for the forthcoming Olympiad in Elista.

All credit to him. He deserves it because he has played consistently well for quite a period of time. His current world ranking of seventh is testimony to his strength.

Which is not to say that I cannot play chess. I just have to remind people once in a while.

In the recent Paul Keres memorial tournament in Tallinn and Pärnu I finished first with 7 out of 9, two points ahead of the opposition. I defeated grandmasters Lautier, Oll, Ehlvest and Andersson, as well as the current Estonian champion Seeman. My performance rating for the event was 2,836. By way of reference, Kasparov's rating is 2,815.

The late Jan Hein Donner wrote in the highly amusing but absurdly expensive book *The King*, that it is much more satisfying to win from a completely lost position than from a better position. He was right.

The following game was from the first round, when playing Black against Lautier. I had not yet scraped the rust from my play after several months of inactivity.

1. d4 e6 2. c4 Nf6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e3 c5 5. Nge2 cxd4 6. exd4 a6? A good psychological choice against the top Frenchman who is normally highly booked up. The chess point is revealed when you learn that 6...0-0 7. a3 Be7 8. d5 exd5 9. cxd5 Bc5 10. b4 Bb6 11. Na4 is considered to be very pleasant for White as this important bishop is captured.

7. a3 Be7 8. g3! avoiding the routine plan of d5

8. ...0-0 9. Bg2 d6 10. 0-0 Nbd7. Black's position is solid but rather passive. Only Ulf Andersson was enthusiastic about my prospects.

11. N4?!! This displays a lack of positional understanding and was

exactly the sort of move I was hoping for when I headed for uncharted territory. The knight is only an object of attack on this square. A better plan was h3 with the intention of developing the bishop on e3.

11. ...Rb8 12. a4 b6 13. Re1 Bb7 14. d5 e5. The drawback of White's 11th move is now apparent.

15. Nd3 Qc7 16. h3 Rbe8 17. Bd2 Bd8 18. Qb1! 18. Nb4 Nb8 was my intention when White will find it difficult to make headway on the queen side. 18...Nb8? A fairly stupid prophylactic measure. Prophylaxis is, anyway, rarely worth the bother.

19. a5 Qe8 20. axb6 Bxb6 21. Be3 removing the well-placed Black bishop.

21. ...Bxe3 22. Rxe3 Nbd7 OK. OK, so I made a mistake. *Errare humanum est*. 23. Nb4 Ng4 Finally Black's activity gets under way just as my queenside was about to dissolve.

24. Re2 f5 25. Rea2 e4 26. h3 26. Nxa6 Bxa6 27. Rxa6 Qc5! was too risky, as e3 is coming. 26...Ng5 27. Nxa6 Nb3+ 28. Kh1 Nde5? 28. ...Bxa6 29. Rxa6 Qc5 would have given sufficient compensation for the pawn. The text was based on an elementary oversight. To compound the problems, I was running desperately short of time.

29. Nb5 Rf6 30. Nac7! Somehow this move had completely escaped my attention 30. ...Rd8 30...Re7? 31. Ra8! was the deep tactical variation which I luckily observed at the last moment.

31. Ne6 31. Ra7 was even stronger. 31. ...Rxe6 32. dxe6 Qxe6 33. Ra7 Bc6 34. Qb2. Seeing that all was not well, I decided to attack violently.

34. ...e3! 35. fxe3? not sensing any danger. It was necessary to eliminate some pieces. 35. Nd4! Nd4 36. Qxd4 f4 37. Qd5 Bxd5 38. Bxd5 Qxd5+ 39. cxd5 e2 40. gxf4 Nd3 41. Re7 35. ...Qg6! 36. g4 36. Qf2 Nd3 was crushing.

36. ...fxg4 37. Nd4 Be4 maintaining the pressure. By now Lautier, too, was running out of time and he cracked up completely. 38. Rf1 Rf8 39. Qf2? walking into an ambush. 39. ...gxf3 40. Bxf3 Nxf3 There is no defense. After 41. Nxf3 Rxf3 42. Qxf3 Bxf3+ 43. Nxf3 Qg2 is mate. White resigned.

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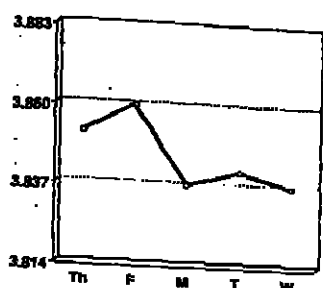
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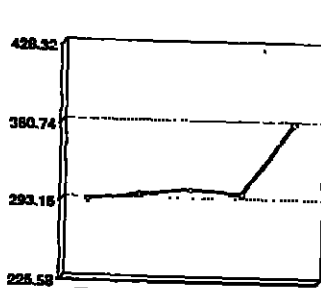
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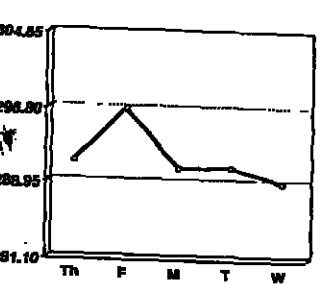
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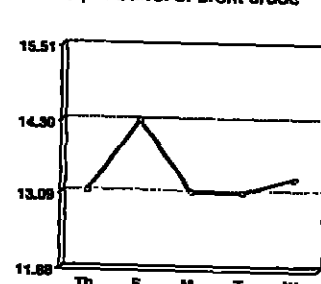
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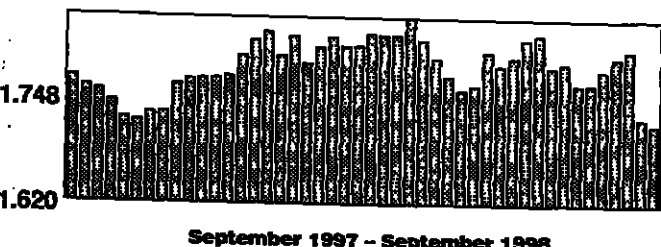
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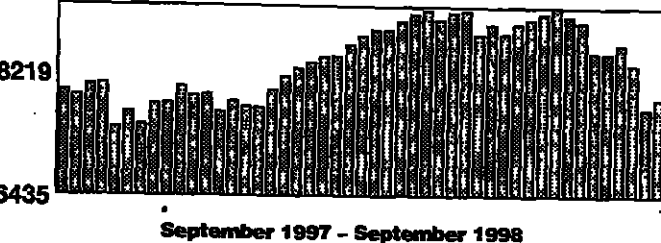
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BDI: 28% of building sector at high risk

Construction is still the business sector suffering from the worst financial difficulties, with 28 percent of its companies considered at high risk, according to a survey by Business Data Israel. The firm recommends selling only for cash to 18.7% of the building companies, while saying it could be a substantial risk to give credit to a further 9.3%. The next highest risk are sales companies, 19% of which are at high risk for meeting credit lines, as are 16.3% of industrial companies. *Nina Gilbert*

Survey: No hotel shortage for 2000

The hotel industry has enough rooms to accommodate 4 million tourists should they arrive here for the millennium celebrations, according to a Ministry of Tourism report released yesterday. The study concludes that overall demand during 2000 will be roughly 28,000 overnight stays in Jerusalem, the Center, and the North, where Christian pilgrims ordinarily flock. About 40% of the stays are projected to be in Jerusalem, more than a third in the North, Center, and Dead Sea, and the remainder in the Tiberias, Nazareth, and Lake Kinneret areas. The tourism industry is projected to offer by 2000 a total of 12,700 rooms in greater Jerusalem, 8,500 in Tiberias and around the Kinneret, and 21,000 in the North, Center, and Dead Sea area. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Hotel revenues up 1% in first half

Hotel revenues amounted to NIS 2 billion in the first half of the year, an increase of only 1% in real terms compared with the same period last year, according to a study prepared by Central Bureau of Statistics for the Tourism Ministry. *Nina Gilbert*

S&P: Slowdown hurting local banks

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The local financial system is vulnerable to deteriorating credit quality, according to a report published yesterday by the international rating agency Standard & Poor's.

According to the report, "some assets" in Israel, as well as the US, Chile, Egypt, Greece, Lebanon, Panama, Singapore and Taiwan, "may become problematic," while for others the decline will be "relatively mild."

A senior Bank of Israel official said the central bank is still studying the report and that it is too early to predict what implications it may have.

S&P said that Israel's private sector credit growth has been fairly moderate as a percentage of GDP due to high nominal growth of the economy. Despite that, the report

notes that real-estate construction and development loans — which are "the Achilles' heel of banking sectors around the world" — are even riskier in a country as relatively isolated as Israel, "where real estate markets could become illiquid for an extended period of time."

Still, "the contingent liability to the government remains modest," the report added, "as the main banks are well run, with credit skills equal to those of highly rated banks."

Elsewhere among emerging economies, the report said that visible signs of weakness are already evident in China, the Czech Republic, Hong Kong, Malaysia, the Philippines, and the Slovak Republic.

S&P said that all the countries surveyed suffer from excessive credit growth, weak-

ening external funding profiles, and deflation trends, or soon-to-be-deflating asset prices. It added that the indicators continue to signal worrisome trends.

Speaking to Bloomberg Business News, the report's authors said that banks in the US, Israel, Taiwan, and Singapore have been making loans so fast that they'll face escalating problems collecting the debts should their respective economies' growth continue to slow.

S&P has divided the banking systems it monitors into five risk categories, based on vulnerability to asset-quality pressures during periods of economic slowdown or recession. According to the report, the potential level of problematic assets that the Israeli financial system may accumulate during such a period is about 15 percent to 30%.

This places Israel alongside countries such as Argentina, Columbia, Hungary, Japan, and Panama, and well below most Western European countries and the US, where the risk amounts to only 5%-15%.

S&P said it could use background from the report when rating countries and banks around the world, though it didn't make any changes based on the study.

Israel's is currently ranked A- by S&P and the equivalent AAA by Moody's Investors Service. The higher the rating, the lower interest is on local bonds issued overseas.

In July, Moody's lowered Israel Discount Bank's financial strength rating to D+ from C. Following the downgrading, the First International Bank of Israel remained the only local bank with a C rating. All others are rated D+.

Teledata sold for \$200m.

By NINA GILBERT

ADC Telecommunications, a US maker of voice, video and data systems, announced yesterday that it has reached an agreement to buy Teledata Communications of Herzliya for \$200 million in cash, in a deal aimed at boosting ADC's access to international markets.

Under the agreement, ADC, based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is to pay \$15.75 per share for all of Teledata's outstanding shares of stock and to convert outstanding Teledata stock options into ADC common stock options.

Poalim Investment Co. is the largest shareholder in Teledata, with 20 percent.

Teledata is a maker of mid-sized digital loop carrier (DLC) systems and has a range of customers in the international market.

ADC said the acquisition of Teledata provides ADC with immediate access to those markets and will hasten its goal to expand international sales to 30% of total sales, from 21% today.

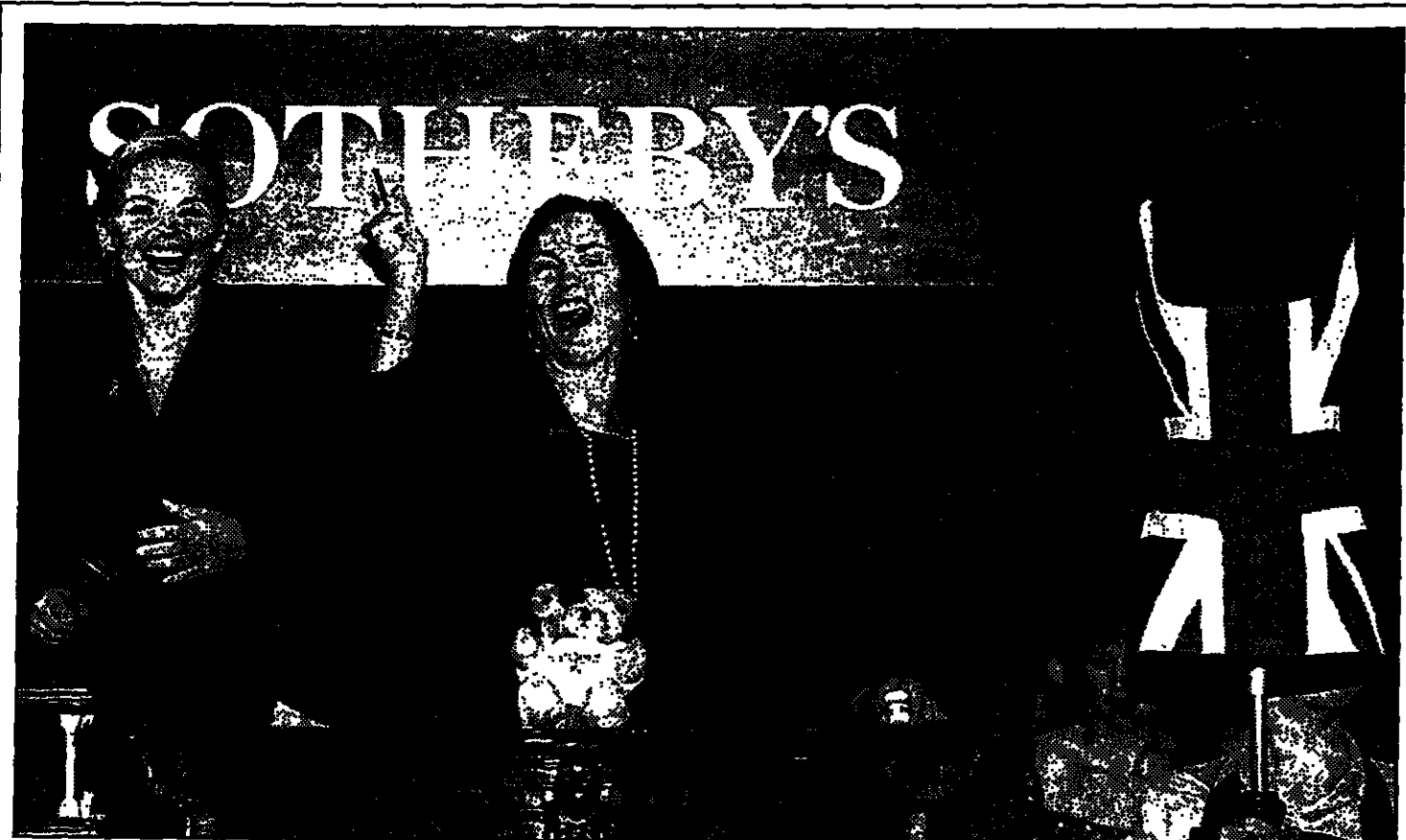
ADC CEO William J. Cadogan said the acquisition helps realize three objectives for ADC.

First, he said, "it provides ADC with a springboard from which to further strengthen our broad offering of local loop technologies for a strategically important segment of the last-mile telecommunications network — the digital loop carrier market."

Second, he said, it would provide new distribution channels as well as fiber, copper and wireless telecommunications products to increase international sales.

Joseph Atsmon, Teledata's CEO, said the merger would help boost growth potential of Teledata's digital loop carrier platform internationally and accelerate its entrance into the US market.

ADC has approximately 7,800 employees around the world and annual sales of \$1.3 billion. Teledata has some 350 workers and annual revenues of some \$70m.



Spicy deal

Former Spice Girl Geri Halliwell, left, helps auction her famous Union-Jack dress with Sotheby's auctioneer Kerry Taylor, center, for a children's cancer charity in London yesterday. The dress was sold for £36,200 (NIS 232,476) to phone bidder Peter Morgan of the Hard Rock Hotel in Las Vegas. *(AP)*

Russia threatens to print money if IMF withholds aid

By PETER HENDERSON

MOSCOW (Reuters) — The senior non-Communist finance official in Russia's new government warned yesterday that Russia would print inflationary rubles if it did not get foreign aid in October.

Deputy Prime Minister for Finance Alexander Shokhin said the government would try to avoid inflationary policy and offered to work with the West, but he forecast increased inflation and said more was in store if no foreign help was forthcoming.

Shokhin, who was due to meet International Monetary Fund offi-

cials later in the day, said he preferred to meet wage and pension arrears by printing rubles backed by IMF aid.

But the former parliamentarian, seen as cautiously reformist, said that Russia must expand the monetary base in any case to give leading banks the liquidity necessary to function.

A \$22.6 billion IMF-led package agreed in July is essentially on hold in the wake of ruble devaluation and financial chaos. But Shokhin said he expected to work out a program and garner international support in early October.

"If the IMF provides us the

tranche of stabilization credit in the beginning of October, it seems to me we should solve our problems without additional emissions," he said. "If not it will be very difficult to solve not only old paying problems — I mean wage arrears, pension arrears — but it would be difficult to solve current payments."

The government owes workers and pensioners some 36b. rubles (\$3.75b.) in arrears, which it promises to pay soon. It also needs money to avert looming banks.

Western economists have almost uniformly dismissed promises by Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov that he would find ways to pay

arrears without plunging Russia into hyperinflation.

The treasury is bare, Russia has frozen its domestic debt market, missed some foreign debt payments and the new government-central bank team is full of Soviet-era economists.

Russians have voiced their own doubts by buying dollars.

Shokhin said a currency board would require constitutional amendments but approved the general idea, saying, "A very strong linkage between printing money and currency reserves is a good idea. We have to use the instruments without the institutions."

Study: US health care costs set to double by 2008

By AMY GOLDSTEIN

WASHINGTON — A respite from rising medical bills that US consumers have enjoyed for several years is coming to an end, according to a new federal study that concludes spending on health care is likely to double over the next decade to \$2.1 trillion.

Costs started accelerating this year, the study says, primarily because the nation already has attained most of the savings that can be derived from an enormous transformation in the health care system that led most Americans into health maintenance organizations (HMOs) or other kinds of managed care plans.

In addition, the analysis finds that health expenditures are being nudged upward by patients increasing consumption of expensive prescription drugs, their enthusiasm for new medical technology, and their demand for greater freedom to select doctors and visit specialists when they want.

It's the first major report that shows clearly that those who felt managed care would solve the health care cost problem forever were living in a fantasy world, said Drew Altman, president of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, which sponsors health care research.

The forecast, prepared by economists in the US Department of Health and Human Services and published Monday in the journal *Health Affairs*, suggests that medical inflation is unlikely to be as rampant as it was during the late 1980s and early '90s. Nevertheless, the amount of money the country spends on health care will increase sharply in the coming decade, from 14 cents of every dollar to 17 cents by 2007.

On a national scale, the resumption of greater spending means that health care, already a dominant yet treacherous political issue, is likely to remain a major force in elections and budget decisions. On a personal level, higher costs will translate inevitably into higher insurance premiums for employers and families.

Already, there is evidence that insurance prices, relatively stable for the last few years, are starting to climb. Just last week, the Office of Personnel Management announced that premiums for the federal health insurance program for workers and retirees will increase an average of 10.2 percent next year, the biggest jump since 1989.

Similarly, California's Medicaid program, one of the largest purchasers of insurance in the country, recently abandoned its policy of refusing to pay higher prices and agreed to grant one of its main HMOs, Kaiser Permanente, a 10% increase in premiums next year.

That's a signal that the same thing will happen with other plans around the country, said Paul Fronstin, a researcher at the Employee Benefits Research Institute.

The study predicts that premiums on private insurance will be climbing at 8.2% annually by 2007, compared with 3.6% in 1996. Rick Foster, chief actuary for HHS's Health Care Financing Administration which prepared the analysis, said in an interview that it is difficult to predict the degree to which those higher premiums will be borne by companies or whether employers will say pony up to their workers.

In the current environment of low unemployment, the study notes, companies are more likely to absorb the extra costs because

they must offer better benefits to attract scarce workers. But that will change, it says, if the economy deteriorates.

The study also shows that, in another turnaround from recent trends, the government appears to be doing a better job at holding down costs than private health insurers. In particular, Medicare, the vast public insurance program for the elderly, will be reined in by a variety of changes wrought by last year's federal budget agreement. As a result, hospital payments will rise more slowly and home health services and nursing homes will be paid by a new, less lucrative method.

Among people with private insurance, the study suggests, managed care already has exerted most of its potential to save money. Starting early this decade, HMOs and similar arrangements became the darling of employers, who were drawn to the health plans' restrictions on care and the money they saved.

But today, with 85% of privately insured Americans in some form

of managed care, the nation already has gotten what the study calls the one-time savings from the switch to less expensive medical arrangements.

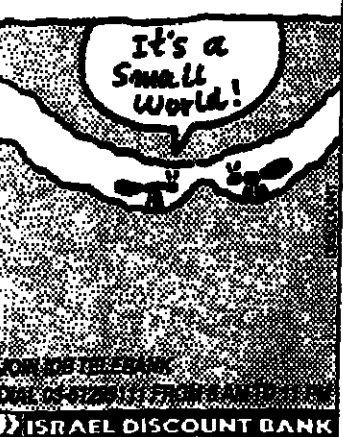
To some extent, the new round of cost increases reflect the way managed care companies do business. Starting this year and continuing for the next decade, the study says, the biggest cost increases will be for prescription drugs, with spending on them rising by nearly 10% each year. They are rising, in part,

because patients in HMOs usually do not have to pay or pay much for prescriptions and because health plans are tending to place certain patients on drug therapies instead of sending them to a doctor or hospital.

But drug costs are also climbing, the study says, because people are eager for new drugs coming on the market, many of which are expensive and being advertised directly to consumers.

On the other hand, some cost increases reflect patients' frustra-

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Tender No. 01/98/078/0
2 MB/S RADIO LINK SYSTEM

The last date for submitting bids for the above tender, which appeared in the paper on August 31, 1998, is October 13, 1998 (and not September 13, 1998, as published)

Succot Vacation at Government Offices

The staff at most government offices will be on holiday at Succot, from the eve of Succot, Sunday, October 4, until Monday, October 12, both dates inclusive.

During this period there will be no reception hours for the public, except in urgent cases. Just before the holiday, a notice will be published, giving the offices and agencies at which there will be a general staff holiday, and information on the service to be available for urgent cases.

Hamana	15.6	+0.8125
HGM	130.375	+0.375
Minova Corp	27	+0.125
Minova Tool	49.375	+1.125
INCO	10.375	+0.0625
Ind Comm Bank	12.875	+0.25
Impregel Steel	40	+0.8125
Inland Steel	18.625	+0.1875

[illegible]

Nordstrom	31	+0.3125
Norfolk Southern	31	-0.1875
Northeast Util	15.8125	+0
Northern Telecom	45.5625	+1.8125
Novell	12.375	+0.125
Ninth State Pwr	26.25	+0.35
Northrop	61.75	-0.875
Northwest Corp	34.3125	-0.6875
NSI	0.34375	-0.0625

[illegible]

Eltron Electronics Ltd	1.100	0
Eltron Electronics Ltd	1.100	0
Elbit Medical Imaging	10.1875	+0
Elbit Systems Ltd	13.125	+0.25
Elbit Circuit Boards	1.125	+0.125
Engel General Developers	5.5	0
ESC Medical Systems Ltd	23.25	+0.125
Elbit Vision Systems	1.625	0

Sotex Corporations.....	14.0825	+1.375
Silicon.....	1.8125	0
Summit Design.....	.7	+0.125
Sapiens International.....	5.125	-0.125
Scanac.....	2.75	+0
Tadiran Telecomm.....	15.25	-0.25
Taro Pharmaceuticals Ind.....	5.25	+0.25

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

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Ameri Brands	22.8125	-0.125
Ameri El Power	46.8875	-0.25
Ameri Express	87	+2.125

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Inside

Baseball roundup

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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Owner of home run ball 63 seeks cash

ST. LOUIS (AP) - The fan who caught Mark McGwire's 63rd home run is looking to cash in.

"The ball is worth something to someone, and I'd like to have something for it myself," said John Grass, a 46-year-old from St. Louis.

Grass is the first fan who has not surrendered the ball since McGwire's 55th home run. He spoke to reporters moments after catching McGwire's 385-foot pinch homer in the ninth inning of the first game of Tuesday's doubleheader against Pittsburgh.

Grass, a groundskeeper for a St. Louis County school district, said: "I was sitting in the eighth row and the ball came right to me. I saw it all the way."

Grass said he wants McGwire to get the ball, but that he was not in a big rush to give it to him.

"Right now, its going in my safe deposit box," he said.

McGwire has said that he will not pay for any baseballs returned by fans but will trade items such as bats, jerseys and tickets for them.

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL - Yesterday's early results: Braves 5, Phillies 1; Brewers 2, Reds 0.

ENGLISH LEAGUE CUP - Yesterday's second-round, first-leg results: Bristol City 1, Crewe 1; Coventry 1, Southend 0; Derby 1, Manchester City 1; Leicester 3, Chesterfield 0; Middlesbrough 2, Wycombe 0; Norwich 1, Wigan 0; Queens Park Rangers 0, Charlton 2; Sheffield Wednesday 0, Cambridge United 1.

United, Arsenal draw in respective Champions League matches

LONDON (AP) - Defending champions Real Madrid posted a 2-0 victory yesterday over UEFA Cup holders Inter Milan as the Champions League opened play with 12 first-round matches.

Other powerhouses weren't as fortunate as the Spaniards.

Manchester United blew a 2-0 lead and drew 3-3 against Barcelona before a disappointed 55,000 sellout at Old Trafford.

Danish side Brondby upset German giant Bayern Munich 2-1, while '96 champion Juventus was held to a 2-2 draw by Turkey's Galatasaray. French champions Lens drew 1-1 with English champions Arsenal.

In Seville, Spain, Real Madrid defeated Inter Milan 2-0 as Fernando Hierro scored in the 79th on a penalty - after a foul by Argentine defender Javier Zanetti - and Clarence Seedorf made it 2-0 in second-half injury time.

Real Madrid, playing 500 kilometers from home in Seville - a penalty for crowd trouble in last season's European Champions Cup semifinal - neutralized Brazilian superstar Ronaldo in the key Group C matchup. It was only Ronaldo's second game since his World Cup nightmare in July.

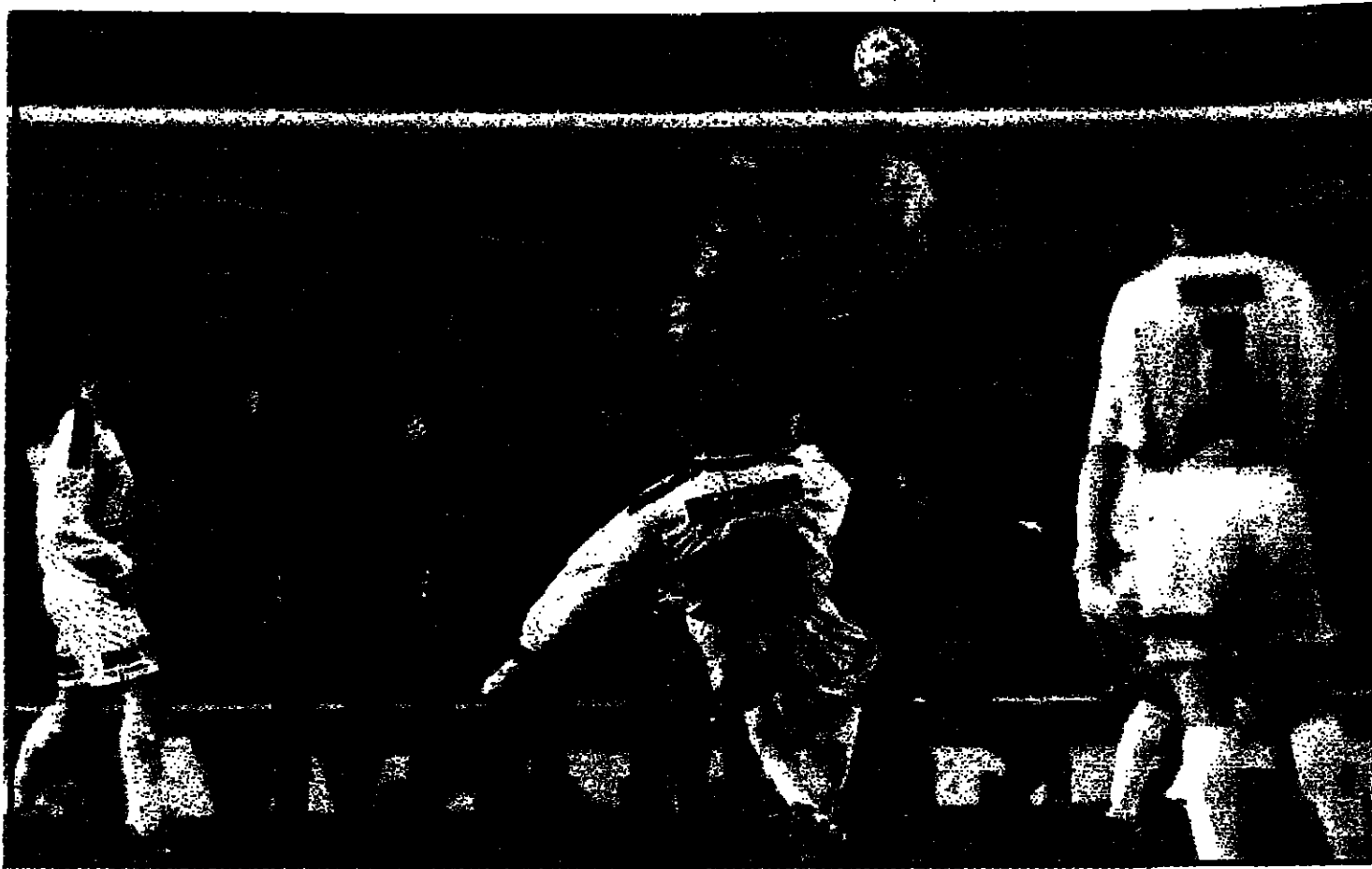
He probably had Inter's best chance to score early in the second period but shot high and to the right of Real Madrid goalkeeper Bodo Illgner.

Chilean Ivan Zamorano also squandered a good scoring opportunity with just minutes left as his header from just outside the box sailed high.

In Manchester, Luis Enrique scored on a penalty in the 71st as Barcelona came back for a 3-3 draw at Manchester United.

The penalty came after United's Nicky Butt was called for a handball in the area and shown the red card.

The tying goal came just seven minutes after England international David Beckham had scored on a



THREE DOWN - Manchester United's David Beckham scores his team's third goal against Barcelona during their match yesterday. The teams drew 3-3.

25-meter free kick in the 64th for what looked like the deciding goal.

Welsh international Ryan Giggs and England's Paul Scholes scored first-half goals as United took a 2-0 lead. But Barcelona rallied with two early second-half goals by Sonny Anderson and Giovanni on a penalty to tie.

It was a decent start for Barcelona in Group D - the most difficult this season - and a disappointing one for United. Last season, Barca won only one of six games in the Champions League and was eliminated. United reached the quarter-finals.

In Lens, France, an injury time equalizer by Tony Vairelles earned Lens a 1-1 tie with Arsenal. Vairelles poked in a left-wing corner from two meters to level after Marc Overmars had given the visitors a 51st minute lead.

In Kaiserslautern, Germany,

Martin Wagner scored in the 41st minute in an evenly balanced match to give Kaiserslautern a 1-0 victory over Benfica Lisbon. Benfica finished with 10 men after defender Khaled Tahar was sent off for a late tackle.

In Turin, Italy, favored Juventus of Turin, one player down for most of the match, was held to a 2-2 draw by Galatasaray of Turkey in their Group B match.

The equalizer by Italian defender Alessandro Birindelli, with a powerful header in the 68th minute, prevented the Turkish team from achieving a sensational upset win at the home of the storied Italian league champions.

In Copenhagen, Denmark, Allan Ravn's 90th minute goal gave Brondby an upset 2-1 win over Bayern Munich. The match was scoreless until the 71st minute when Bayern midfielder Markus Babbel gave the visitors a

1-0 lead on a long free kick by Stefan Effenberg.

But in the 87th minute, Bayern's Thomas Helmer unintentionally contributed to the equalizer when a low drive by Brondby forward Soeren Colding rebounded off his foot into the net for an own-goal.

In Eindhoven, Netherlands, HUK Helsinki, the first Finnish team to play in the Champions League, lost 2-1 to PSV Eindhoven on a last-minute Arnold Bruggink strike. Finnish international Mika Kottila scored in the 32nd and Andre Ooijer equalized for PSV in the 59th.

In Porto, Portugal, Olympiakos of Greece fought back from a two-goal deficit to clinch a 2-2 tie in the final minutes against Porto. A 90th-minute goal by Serbian Sinisa Gogic, coming five minutes after Stelios Giannacopoulos had pulled one back for the Greek

side, completed a dramatic turnaround.

In Zagreb, Croatia, Croatia Zagreb and Ajax Amsterdam played to a spirited but 0-0 draw. Ajax, a four-time champion of the event, had the better of the play and looked threatening from outside the box. However it was Croatia that foiled the best chance to win.

Group A: Porto (Portugal) 2, Olympiakos Piraeus (Greece) 2, Croatia Zagreb (Croatia) 0, Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands) 0.

Group B: Athletic Bilbao (Spain) 1, Rosenborg Trondheim (Norway) 1, Juventus (Italy) 2, Galatasaray (Turkey) 2.

Group C: Real Madrid (Spain) 2, Inter Milan (Italy) 0, Sturm Graz (Austria) 0, Spartak Moscow (Russia) 2.

Group D: Brondby (Denmark) 2, Bayern Munich (Germany) 1, Manchester United (England) 3, Barcelona (Spain) 3.

Group E: RC Lens (France) 1, Arsenal (England) 1, Panathinaikos (Greece) 2, Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine) 1.

Group F: PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands) 2, HUK Helsinki (Finland) 1, Kaiserslautern (Germany) 1, Benfica (Portugal) 0.

Lacklustre Cup Winners Cup today

LONDON (AP) - Give thanks for Chelsea, Lazio, and Newcastle.

Without the three big-spending clubs, today's opening of the Cup Winners Cup would be more than it already is.

The Cup Winners Cup, and to a lesser degree the UEFA Cup, has fallen victim to UEFA's move to pump up the Champions League with almost all of the continent's top clubs.

After those two siphon off the cream, the Cup Winners Cup gets what's left - and there's not that much.

The key games among the 16 first-round, first-leg ties today are: Chelsea, England vs. Helsingborg, Sweden - Lazio, Italy vs. Lausanne, Switzerland - Newcastle, England vs. Partizan, Yugoslavia. Defending champions Chelsea - England's French-Italian side - will have to stay focused against the unglamorous Swedish team.

Gianluca Vialli's team has won only one of its first four English league matches.

Lazio, last season's UEFA Cup finalists, has also started slowly with a disappointing 1-1 draw at lowly Piacenza Sunday to open Serie A play despite the presence of World Cup stars Christian Vieri and Chile's Marcelo Salas.

Vieri wasn't acquired from Atletico Madrid in time to be on the cup roster, so he'll miss this match in favor of veteran Roberto Mancini.

"We want to put on a good show," Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved said. "We have to forget the draw with Piacenza, but I don't think it's right to criticize us."

Newcastle, with rumors new coach Ruud Geulit may part with England international Alan Shearer, has just one win in five games in league play.

Shearer, who has been silent about the transfer rumors since Geulit over last month, issued a statement yesterday.

"I can say that I've spoken with the chairman and the manager and they have told me that they see me as an important part of Newcastle's future," he said.

"However, because the fans have specifically asked, the manager feels that my strength is scoring goals but he realizes that I am the type of striker who needs service."

In the other 13 matches today it's: Rudar Velenje, Slovenia vs. Varteks, Croatia; Panionios, Greece vs. Haka, Finland; Ried, Austria vs. MTK Budapest, Hungary; Levski Sofia, Bulgaria vs. Copenhagen, Denmark; Herenveen, Netherlands vs. Amica Wroclaw, Poland; Hearts, Scotland vs. Majorca, Spain; Duisburg, Germany vs. Genk, Belgium; Besiktas, Turkey vs. Spartak Trnava, Slovakia; Rapid Bucharest, Romania vs. Valerenga, Norway; Apollon Limassol, Cyprus vs. Jablonec, Czech Republic; Paris Saint-Germain, France vs. Maccabi Haifa, Israel; Metalurg Leningrad, Latvia vs. Braga, Portugal; CSKA Kiev, Ukraine vs. Lokomotiv Moscow, Russia.

Mac. Haifa have uphill battle against Paris St. Germain

By OFER RONEN-ABELS

Maccabi Haifa face tough competition as they play Paris St. Germain in the first round of Europe's Cup Winners Cup at the Parc De Princes this evening (kick off at 21:00).

Haifa's head coach Dushan Ohnir and his assistant Daniel Brailovsky are still trying to decide the starting line up, with the big question being who will play in the middle. Ibrahim Duro, who was sent off on Saturday in the league game against Beitar Jerusalem, seems

likely to be included in the starting line up instead of either Yossi Benayon or Haim Silvas while at the back, Sergey Balanchuk looks like he'll lose his place to Adoram Kaye, who will probably play at left back.

Ohnir, who rates PSG as one of the strongest teams in Europe, describes playmaker Austin "Jay-Jay" Okocha as the key player in the French side and admits that the 25-year-old Nigerian who plays behind the forwards will be marked by one of Haifa's players.

PSG, who is coached by former

French International midfielder Alain Jires, currently lie 10th in the league and despite a disappointing goalless draw on Saturday against Marseille, will play their usual game according to their manager who says he expects to finish off Maccabi Haifa in the first leg.

Just like his opposing numbers, Jires hasn't made up his mind yet as to who will partner Marco Simeone upfront. Strong candidates for this task are Patrice Loco or Nicola Oudek.

The game can be seen live on METV (Channel 24) from 2045.

Australian swimmer aims for 10th gold medal in Commonwealth Games

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) - Susie O'Neill tied Mike Wenden's swim record of nine gold medals at the Commonwealth Games yesterday but track star Ato Boldon all but counted himself of a world record bid in the 100 meters.

For once it was a bitter-sweet day for the dominant Australian swim team as it gained only two of the six golds compared with 17 out of 20 in the previous four days.

But O'Neill's triumph by helping the Australians capture the 4x100 medley relay gold was a landmark. Her fifth gold medal of the games went with the one she won at Auckland in 1990 and three at Victoria. British Columbia four years ago. She could still beat Wenden's record and hit double figures when she swims her 200 butterfly, today.

Boldon is chasing his first. The Trinidad sprinter came to the Games saying that the conditions were right for him to break Donovan Bailey's 100-meter time



Frankie Fredericks of Namibia ran a not-so blistering 10.15 in the 100 meter race.

of 9.84 seconds. After two races yesterday to gain the semifinal, he wasn't so sure.

Boldon, who has run 9.86 twice this season, loves the "Caribbean-style" heat and humidity of Kuala Lumpur and says it is perfect for a world record. He's not so happy about the track.

"I'm starting to have my doubts about the track. It's not just me, it's the times the other guys are running," said Boldon, who will be running against big rivals Frankie Fredericks of Namibia and Obadele Thompson to get to his first Commonwealth gold today.

"I think Frankie should have run faster so I'm having a few questions about whether it's a world record track," he said.

"If I'm going to have a chance for it I must aim for a very good semifinal tomorrow."

Thompson was second fastest qualifier for the semis with 10.09 while Fredericks, who was slow out of the blocks, managed only 10.15 and was fourth fastest behind Australia's Matthew Shrivington, who ran 10.13 to win his heat.

The opening day of athletics saw

a Kenyan 1-2 in the men's 10,000 meters with Simon Maina running virtually alone for the last 6,000. He beat William Kalya with Australia's Steve Moneghetti taking bronze for to gain a medal for the fourth Commonwealth Games in a row.

A last wicket stand of 35 by Nicky Boje and Alan Dawson edged South Africa to the final of the Games first cricket competition after a nerve-wracking, one-wicket win over Sri Lanka.

The South Africans looked set for an easy win after bowling the Sri Lankans out for only 130. But wickets continued to tumble cheaply and South Africa started defeat in the face at 96 for nine before Boje and Dawson came together to win a place in the final against either Australia or New Zealand, who meet today.

Three of the first weightlifting golds went to defending champion Marcus Stephen of Nauru, who won the snatch, clean and jerk, and total weights in the 62-kilogram division.

Welsh lawn bowlers beat Israeli challengers

The Welsh lawn bowls team of British Isles Internationals showed their superiority when they won their first encounter 4-2 at Ramat Hasharon, and followed with a second 5-1 win yesterday at Ra'anana playing against alternate selected Israeli sides.

Israel, the underdogs, nevertheless showed courage and resistance keeping their opponents on their toes and recorded some creditable performances. At Ramat Hasharon Lorraine

Rabman had an excellent 21-17 win against Ann Lewis, this year's Welsh National singles runner-up, while Yael Bar-Ner and Tova Melokir won their pairs match 18-17. Wales won the Ackland/Kowarsky singles encounter, one of the two pairs games and both triple games.

At Ra'anana yesterday, Helen Gordon with Tzila Gavish were in top form to beat Linda Evans and Jacqueline Saunders 30-17 after trailing 7-14 at the 8th end. Hadassah Fisher and

Jaffa Lavin resisted stoutly to lose their pairs game 21-19. The two Welsh triples teams each kept their unbeaten records with positive collective bowling while in the singles Janet Ackland, the 1988 Singles World Champion, beat Shirley Kantor 21-8 and Ann Lewis won 21-9 against Chaya Prager.

The two remaining matches will be played at Haifa and Netanya on Friday and Saturday respectively.

Norman Spurr

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ISRAEL

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Haifa: 30/21
Tel Aviv: 33/22
Jerusalem: 32/19
Beersheba: 32/21
Eilat: 41/27

EUROPE WEATHER TODAY

London: 18/13
Paris: 18/9
Berlin: 15/11
Rome: 23/12
Moscow: 21/11
Istanbul: 23/14
Athens: 28/17
Antalya: 28/16

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Ariel	34/23	22/14	34/23	22/14
Beersheba	32/21	21/10	32/21	21/10
Dead Sea	41/10	27/08	41/10	27/08
Eilat	41/10	27/08	41/10	27/08
Haifa	30/21	21/10	30/21	21/10
Jerusalem	32/19	19/09	32/19	19/09
Katzi	32/19	19/09	32/19	19/09
Netanya	32/19	22/14	32/19	22/14
Tel Aviv	33/22	21/10	33/22	21/10

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Amsterdam	15/09	19/08	15/09	19/08
Beijing	28/04	19/08	28/04	19/08
Berlin	15/09	19/08	15/09	19/08
Brussels	14/07	19/08	14/07	19/08
Cairo	32/25	21/10	32/25	21/10
Chicago	29/19	16/11	29/19	16/11
Frankfurt	13/05	19/08	13/05	19/08
Hong Kong	32/25	21/10	32/25	21/10
Johnneshburg	22/11	12/03	22/11	12/03
London	18/13	13/05	18/13	13/05
Los Angeles	32/25	19/08	32/25	19/08
Madrid	30/21	19/08	30/21	19/08
Mexico City	24/15	14/07	24/15	14/07
Montreal	21/10	11/02	21/10	11/02
Moscow	21/10	11/02	21/10	11/02
New York	29/19	16/11	29/19	16/11
Peking	10/04	19/08	10/04	19/08
Prague	10/04	19/08	10/04	19/08
Rio de Janeiro	29/19	16/11	29/19	16/11
Rome	23/12	12/03	23/12	12/03
Sydney	21/10	11/02	21/10	11/02
Tokyo	30/21	21/10	30/21	21/10
Toronto	24/15	14/07	24/15	14/07
Vienna	15/09	19/08	15/09	19/08
Washington	10/04	19/08	10/04	19/08
Zurich	13/05	19/08	13/05	19/08

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY

Anchorage: 17/8
Fairbanks: 19/8
Vancouver: 22/12
Seattle: 22/12
San Francisco: 22/12
Los Angeles: 32/25
Dallas: 29/21
Houston: 31/24
Miami: 33/25

ISRAEL CITIES

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Jerusalem: 32/19
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Eilat: 41/27

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